CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY–15 AUGUST 2006

COMPiled by MichELE k. EspositO

This section is part eighty-four of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time (EST). For a more comprehensive overview of events related to the al-Aqsa intifada and of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in this issue.

16 MAY

As the quarter opens, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) continue Operation Southern Arrow, with heavy shelling and air strikes on Gaza in response to Palestinian rocket fire (at a rate of 10 Israeli strikes per 1 Palestinian rocket attack) and tight restrictions on Gaza’s crossings (see Quarterly Update for details). The IDF also continues to separate the n. and s. West Bank by closing (since 4/21) the Zatara checkpoint s. of Nablus and to restrict movement into and out of the n. Jordan Valley. Meanwhile, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza continue to suffer severe economic shortages due to the U.S.- and Israel-led economic sanctions on the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority (PA) that have prevented the PA from paying government workers’ salaries for 2 mos. Today, the IDF patrols in ‘Araba nr. Jenin, firing on residential areas; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Nablus. Islamic Jihad fires its 2d Grad rocket fr. Gaza toward Ashqelon, damaging a poultry farm but causing no injuries (see 3/28, 4/21). A Hamas mbr. is killed in a drive-by shooting in Gaza City; no group claims responsibility. In Ramallah, 100s of government workers protest the PA’s failure to pay wages. Discount Bank, the last Israeli bank doing business with the PA, announces that it will sever its ties with Palestinian banks in 3–6 mos. (HA, MM, Palestine Media Center 5/17; JP, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 5/18; HA, NYT 5/19; HJ, MA 5/20 in WNC 5/21; PCHR 5/25)

17 MAY

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, and Tulkarm, firing on residential areas. Palestinians fire 6 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Unidentified Palestinians fire on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Tapuach settlement, injuring 2 Jewish settlers. In Tulkarm, Fatah gunmen surround a building where PA Dep. PM Nasir al-Sha’ir (Change and Reform) is meeting with the Tulkarm governor, forcing the mtg. to end, and Sha’ir to leave under police escort. Some 2,000 Fatah mbrs. parade through Gaza City in a show of force in reaction to the deployment of the Interior Min.’s predominantly Hamas ESF. The National and Islamic Higher
Comm. for the Follow-up of the Intifada (NIHC) sponsors a rally in Gaza calling for the immediate dissolution of the new ESF, activation of the PA security forces to prevent lawlessness, and holding of national unity talks. Late in the evening, Hamas, Fatah gunmen exchange fire outside the Palestinian Council (PC) building in Gaza City, leaving 2 Fatah mbrs., 1 Hamas mbr. wounded. (HA, MM, XIN 5/18; MM 5/19; HJ 5/20 in WNC 5/21; PCHR 5/25)

19 MAY

The IDF conducts major arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus (searching a mosque, firing on residential areas, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian); also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Ramallah. In Gaza City, PA police, Fatah mbrs., exchange fire with ESF forces, leaving 2 police officers, 1 Fatah mbr., 1 Hamas mbr. wounded. Palestinian customs officials detain Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri as he enters Gaza at the Rafah crossing after EU monitors discover he is trying to smuggle in $815,000 in Euros, confiscate the money; anyone entering Gaza must declare sums over $2,000. (IMEMC, MM, WP, XIN 5/19; HA, JAZ, NYT, WP, WT 5/19; AFP

20 MAY

The IDF makes an air strike on a moving car in Gaza, assassinating senior Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Muhammad Dadu, killing 3 bystanders and wounding 4; patrols in Balata r.c. late in the evening, fatally shooting a Palestinian woman who comes to her window to observe events; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm town and r.c., nr. Hebron, Jenin. Meanwhile, a bomb explodes at the PA General Intelligence Service (GIS) offices in Gaza, seriously wounding GIS chief Tariq Abu Rajab in an apparent assassination attempt, killing his bodyguard, wounding 8 others (unidentified gunmen shot, wounded a bodyguard outside Abu Rajab’s home on 5/14); PA security forces taking the wounded to the hospital fire fr. the windows of their cars to clear the streets; mbrs. of the ESF, believing themselves under attack, fire toward the convoy, causing no injuries. No group takes responsibility for the bombing; PA PM Ismail Haniyeh calls for an investigation. In response to the attempt on Abu Rajab’s life, a group calling itself the Fatah Protection Unit demands that PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas dismiss the Hamas-led government and call new elections, that the Interior Min. disband the ESF. Unidentified Palestinian gunmen fire on the home of Interior Min. spokesman Khalid Abu Hilal, causing damage but no injuries. (JAZ, PNN 5/20; MENA, PSCT, VOI 5/20 in WNC 5/21; NYT, WP, WT 5/21; AFP, Daily Star, HA, MM 5/22; PCHR 5/25)

21 MAY

The IDF opens Gaza’s Sufa commercial crossing (closed since 5/17); shells Bayt Hanun, Bayt Labiya, injuring a 12-yr.-old Palestinian; sends troops into Hebron to surround the Polytechnic University campus, firing percussion grenades, tear gas and arresting 7 students; sends undercover units into Tamun nr. Jenin in a car with Palestinian license plates to arrest 3 Palestinians; sends troops into Tubas nr. Jenin, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Nablus. Israeli DM Amir Peretz authorizes the expansion of the “jurisdictional area” of 4 West Bank Jewish settlements, often the prelude to construction of new settlement neighborhoods: Givat Ze’ev nr. Jerusalem (to be expanded by 60 dunum [d.; 4 d. = 1 acre]; Beitar Lit nr. Bethlehem (to be expanded by 400 d.; Oranit, just over the Green Line nr. Kefar Saba; Maskiyot, in the Jordan Valley, where Israel plans to relocate the 40 settlers evacuated fr. Shirat Hayam settlement in Gaza. Jewish settlers fr. Ma’on nr. Hebron attack Palestinian school children being escorted to school by the IDF, injuring 2. PA security forces find, dismantle a 150-lb roadside bomb planted along the motorcade route of Internal Security Service dir. gen. Rashid Abu Shbak, who was appointed to the new position on 4/6 in a PRC; no group takes responsibility, but Fatah officials hint that Hamas is to blame, note that the PRCs have previously fired on his home. In reaction, 100s of Fatah mbrs. rally in Gaza City in support of the PA security forces, offering to volunteer their services to counterbalance Siyam’s new volunteer force. Overnight, a previously unknown group calling itself the al-Qa’ida Organization of the State of Palestine claims responsibility for the 5/20 attack on Abu Rajab in a statement.

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on the Internet. (MM, NYT 5/22; OCHA 5/24; see also MA 5/20 in WNC 5/21; PCHR, PNN 5/25)

22 MAY

The IDF detains Change and Reform PC mbrs. Khalid Abu ‘Arafa, Ahmad Abu Atun, Muhammad Abu Tir for participating in a public demonstration at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount on 5/19 to urge people to donate money to the PA government, bars them from entering the holy site for 2 wks.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah. The High Court of Israel also approves a segment of the separation wall in Ramallah that will isolate at least 3,900 d. of Palestinian land and uproot 1,100 olive trees. Fatah and Hamas activists, mbrs. of the predominately Hamas ESF and the predominately Fatah PA Preventive Security Forces (PSF) exchange fire nr. the PC headquarters in Gaza City, killing the Jordanian amb.’s driver, wounding 11 Palestinians in the crossfire; it is unclear who shot first and why. Fatah, Hamas gunmen (not mbrs. of the security forces) also clash in Khan Yunis, leaving 1 Fatah mbr. dead; Hamas says the incident was sparked by Fatah mbrs. attempting to kidnap 2 of its men, whereas Fatah says it began when Hamas mbrs. ambushed a Fatah vehicle. (AFP, HA 5/22; AFP, NYT, WP, WT 5/23; PCHR 5/25)

23 MAY

The IDF sends bulldozers 300 m into central Gaza to level land along the border; sends troops into Nablus, firing tear gas at Palestinian children on their way home fr. school; sends troops into Tulkarm to search a car, confiscate a computer; patrols in Kafr Dan nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids in and around Hebron and Ramallah (capturing Izzeddine al-Qassam Brigades West Bank head Ibrahim Hamid), in Jericho, and nr. Qalqilya. An Israeli court rejects an appeal by East Jerusalem Palestinians challenging the route of the separation wall around Ma’ale Adumim, determining that the DMin. has given “adequate consideration of the barrier’s impact on residents while balancing the security needs of Israeli citizens.” (AFP MM 5/23; NYT, WP, WT 5/24; PCHR 5/25)

24 MAY

The IDF sends undercover units into Ramallah’s central shopping district, where they arrest Islamic Jihad’s Qalqilya military leader Muhammad Shubaki; when the unit is confronted by armed militants and stone-throwing protesters, the IDF sends in uniformed reinforcements that clash with the Palestinians, leaving 1 PA General Intelligence officer, 3 bystanders dead, at least 35 Palestinians and 1 IDF soldier wounded. The IDF also sends bulldozers, tanks, jeeps 200 m inside the Gaza border nr. Bureij r.c. to level land for ongoing construction of a cement wall along the n. Gaza border; raids the municipal offices in Maithalun nr. Jenin, removes the Palestinian flag fr. the building, fires tear gas; patrols in Farkha nr. Nablus (iring on residential areas). Kafr Dan; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Bethlehem, and nr. Hebron, Jenin. In central Gaza, PSF chief for central Gaza Nabil Hudud dies when a bomb rigged to his car explodes; no group claims responsibility; Fatah and Hamas gunmen, however, exchange fire outside Gaza’s Shifa Hospital after Hudud’s body is brought in. In Khan Yunis, unidentified gunmen kidnap, shoot 3 Hamas mbrs., killing 1; no group claims responsibility; Hamas accuses the PA security forces. (AFP, Guardian, HA, NYT, PCHR, Palestine Monitor [Internet], WP 5/25; OCHA, PCHR 6/1)

25 MAY

The IDF continues bulldozing operations begun on 5/24, just inside the Gaza border nr. Bureij r.c.; sends troops into Tulkarm to raid the Social Sport Club, confiscating computers, files, photos and sealing the venue; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and nr. Hebron, Tulkarm. In response to the IDF killing of 4 Palestinians in Ramallah on 4/24, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbrs. fire 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Fatah and PA security forces exchange fire with Hamas mbrs., following the funeral for Hudud in Gaza City; leaving 1 PA security officer dead, several wounded. (XIN 5/25; WP 5/26; OCHA, PCHR 6/1)

26 MAY

The IDF shuts Gaza’s Sufa commercial crossing for 2 days; shells n. Gaza, killing a
Palestinian farmer, wounding a 2d Palestinian in Bayt Lahiya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Qalqilya, and in Hebron, Qabatya, and Yaman nr. Jenin. In n. Gaza, 3 Palestinian teenagers are killed, 3 Palestinians are wounded when they accidentally detonate unexploded IDF ordnance. A Palestinian dies of injuries he received when the IDF fired on his car nr. Nablus on 4/15. (WP, WT 5/27; OCHA, PCHR 6/1)

In Sidon, Lebanon, senior Islamic Jihad official Mahmud Majzub, his brother are killed when a bomb in their car explodes. Israel denies responsibility. (MM 5/26; NYT 5/27; MM 5/30; SFR 6/21)

27 MAY

The IDF send undercover units into Qiffin nr. Tulkarm, firing on residential areas; patrols in Bayt Ta’mar nr. Bethlehem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus. In Jerusalem’s Old City, 2 East Jerusalem Palestinians stab, lightly wound an Israeli. (WP, WT 5/28; PCHR 6/1; HA 7/4)

28 MAY

The IDF reopens Gaza’s Sufa crossing; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Bethlehem, Tulkarm. (OCHA, PCHR 6/1)

Unidentified militants in s. Lebanon (thought to be Hizballah mbrs. retaliating on behalf of Islamic Jihad for the suspected Israeli assassination of a senior Islamic Jihad mbr. on 5/26) fire Katyusha rockets across the border at an IDF post, seriously injuring 1 IDF soldier. The IDF makes air strikes on 2 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) posts, on a weapons depot nr. the Syrian border in the Biqa’ Valley and in s. Beirut, killing 1 PFLP-GC mbr., wounding at least 5. Later, Hizballah fires mortars, rockets toward at least 10 IDF outposts on the n. Israeli border, wounding 1 IDF soldier; the IDF fires artillery, conducts air strikes on Hizballah targets in s. Lebanon, killing at least 1 Hizballah mbr., wounding 2 civilians; Hizballah fires several rockets into n. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) brokers a cease-fire. (IFM, NYT, WP, WT 5/29; MM 5/30; NYT 6/1; MM 6/2)

29 MAY

During the day, the IDF sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Qalqilya to arrest 3 Palestinians; patrols in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem; issues military orders seizing 30 d. of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Hebron. Late in the evening, the IDF for the 1st time since the Gaza disembarkment makes a major ground incursion into n. Gaza to prevent rocket fire, sending undercover troops to ambush and kill 3 Islamic Jihad mbrs. nr. the fmr. settlement of Dugit, immediately withdrawing to Israel afterward; minutes after the withdrawal an IDF helicopter fires missiles on the same area, wounding 4 Palestinian medics. 2 journalists covering the incident; soon after, helicopters fire on the area a 2d time, killing a PA security officer checking the area, wounding a bystander. The IDF also conducts late night arrest raids, house searches in al-Bireh (searching the home of Change and Reform mbr. and PC dep. secy. ‘Aziz Kayid, confiscating computer disks) and nr. Bethlehem, Qalqilya; sends undercover units into Balata r.c. (exchanging fire with wanted Palestinians, killing 1 Palestinian, wounding 4) and Qabatya (firing on 4 wanted Palestinians without warning, assassinating Islamic Jihad mbr. Tariq Zakarna, wounding 3). (MM, NYT, WT 5/30; PCHR 6/1)

30 MAY

The IDF shells n. Gaza, wounding a 7-yr.-old Palestinian in Um al-Nasser nr. Bayt Lahiya; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes nr. Nablus for being built without permits; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus and in Balata r.c. (clashing with local gunmen, wounding 2), Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah. Qabatya, Qalqilya; razes 2 poultry farms in Walaja nr. Bethlehem for construction of the separation wall. The High Court of Israel approves the route of a wall segment around Shavei Shomron settlement northwest of Nablus that will require confiscating 53 d. of Palestinian land, uprooting 350 olive trees. In Nablus, AMB gunmen kill 2 Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel in the assassination of 2 AMB mbrs. in 5/06. In Ramallah, 1,000s of mbrs. of the PA Government Employees Union (predominantly Fatah) march in protest of the PA’s failure to pay salaries. (MM 5/30; NYT, PCHR 5/31; PCHR 6/8)
31 MAY

Palestinians fire a rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting a house about 100 yds. fr. the Sederot home of Israeli DM Peretz, causing damage but no injuries. The IDF responds with artillery fire on n. Gaza, wounding 1 Palestinian outside his Bet Lahiya home. The IDF also demolishes a Palestinian home, surrounding structures nr. Hebron for being built without permits; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and nr. Haldah r.c.; Qalandia r.c. nr. Ramallah, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem. (MM 5/31; NYT, PCHR 6/1; PCHR 6/8)

1 JUNE

The IDF closes Gaza’s Sufa and Qarni crossings for 3 days for the Shavuot holidays; shells the n. Gaza coast fr. the sea, wounding 2 Palestinian teenagers; fires on residential areas of Tulkarm town and r.c.; raids a hospital in Nablus, arresting a Palestinian being treated in the intensive care unit. Jewish settlers fr. Ramat Yishai attack Palestinians, vandalize homes in Hebron. In Gaza City, 1 PA security force officer is killed, 7 Palestinians are wounded in a clash btwn. Fatah and Hamas mbrs. Separately, some 3,000 PA security force officers rally outside the PC headquarters in Gaza City, firing automatic rifles in the air and vandalizing the building in one of the largest protests to date over the government’s failure to pay civil service wages for 3 mos. (NYT, WP, WT 5/2; OCHA 6/7; PCHR 6/8)

2 JUNE

The IDF fatally shoots 2 Egyptian border guards who cross the Israeli border into the Negev, while a 3d Egyptian escapes; Israel claims that the men intentionally crossed the border and fired on IDF troops in a predawn raid; Egypt claims the men accidentally strayed across the border and the IDF fired first. The IDF also patrols in the Old City of Nablus, surrounding r.c.s; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and nr. Jenin, Ramallah. (HA, MM 6/2; NYT, WP 6/3; MENA 6/3 in WNC 6/4; PCHR 6/8)

3 JUNE

The IDF shells n. Gaza, wounding 2 Palestinians inside their Jabaliya r.c. home and a Palestinian in Um al-Nasser; patrols in al-Fara’ r.c. nr. Jenin, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops; fires on residential areas of Tulkarm town and r.c., wounding a 60-yr.-old Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron and in Balata r.c., Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. (PCHR 6/8)

4 JUNE

The IDF reopens Sufa and Qarni crossings; patrols in Qarawat Bani Hassan nr. Nablus and Bidjaya nr. Nablus, conducting random ID checks; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c. and nr. Bidjaya, Hebron, Ramallah; issues military orders confiscating 895 d. of land nr. Qalqilya for “security purposes.” Late in the evening, Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba, accompanied by 10 IDF soldiers, raid 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron, beating the residents, setting fire to at least 30 olive trees, preventing firemen fr. reaching the area. In Gaza City and Khan Yunis, Fatah, Hamas gunmen trade fire, leaving 3 gunmen and 1 bystander dead. (MM, WP 6/5; NYT 6/6; OCHA 6/7; PCHR 6/8)

5 JUNE

Overnight, a senior mbr. of Hamas’s Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades is killed in Jabaliya r.c. when a large bomb goes off nr. his home; no group takes responsibility. The IDF makes an air strike on a car driving in n. Gaza, assassinating PRC mbrs. Imad Asaliyya, Majdi Hammad, wounding 2 PRC mbrs. in the car, 2 bystanders; sends bulldozers, tanks 200 m into Gaza nr. Bureij r.c. to level land for the construction of a cement wall along the n. Gaza border; sends an undercover unit into ‘Anabta nr. Tulkarm in a car with Palestinian license plates to raid a café and arrest 11 Palestinians; demolishes 2 Palestinian homes nr. Jenin, 1 nr. Jericho, 1 nr. Nablus; patrols in Maithalun, stopping Palestinians for random ID checks; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Tulkarm, and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin (firing on residential areas); issues military orders confiscating 600 d. of Palestinian land s. of Tulkarm isolated btwn. the separation wall and the Green Line, for ‘security purposes’; accompanies an Israeli Archaeological Authority team into Battir nr. Bethlehem to conduct a test dig in the center of the village in search of Jewish historical remains. Gunmen affiliated with Hamas raid a Palestinian TV station in Khan Yunis,
damage equipment, accusing the station of supporting Fatah at Hamas's expense; the **Hamas leadership** denies the attack was authorized by the group. (MM 6/5; NYT 6/6; OCHA 6/7; PCHR 6/8)

6 JUNE

Palestinians fire 6 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Sderot, hitting 1 house, lightly wounding 1 Israeli; the **IDF** shells n. Gaza in response, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also sends bulldozers, tanks 200 m into Gaza nr. Bureij r.c. for a 2d day to level land; steps up mock air raids over Gaza; makes an air strike on a PRC training site outside Gaza City and 5 uninhabited sites in n. Gaza, causing no damage or injuries; patrols in Tubas, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 2; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin, nr. Hebron. A mortar attack by **suspected Hamas mbrs.** on the PSF headquarters in Gaza City wounds 4 PSF officers and 2 janitors. (MM 6/6; MM, OCHA, WP 6/7; PCHR 6/8)

7 JUNE

The **IDF** fires shells at 3 Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel fr. Gaza, killing 2 Palestinians and wounding 1, also killing a **PA security officer** at a post nearby and wounding 5 bystanders (including a 2d security officer); patrols in Fahma and Kafr Ra’i nr. Jenin; conducts late night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron (firing percussion grenades) and in and around Nablus, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize several Palestinian homes in Hebron, beating a Palestinian. (MM, PCHR, WP 6/7; PCHR 6/8)

8 JUNE

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a PRC site at the fmr. Rafiah Yam settlement nr. Rafah, assassinating **PA Interior Min. inspector gen., ESF cmdr., and PRC leader Jamal Abu Samhadana, 3 bodyguards**, wounding 10 PRC mbrs. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in and around Jenin, Nablus. **Palestinians** fire 5 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** responds by shelling n. Gaza, causing no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gush Etzion attack a Palestinian s. of Bethlehem. (MM, NYT, WP 6/9; IFM 6/11; MM 6/12; PCHR 6/15)

9 JUNE

After **Palestinians** fire 5 **rockets** into Israel (causing no damage or injuries), the **IDF** shells n. Gaza from land, sea, and air, hitting the Bayt Lahiya beach where families are picnicking, killing at least 8 **Palestinians**, wounding 32; the **IDF** suspends shelling, orders an investigation; **Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** say they would end their 16-mo. cease-fire to avenge the deaths. The **IDF** also makes air strikes on a car driven in n. Gaza by PRC mbrs. who allegedly had just fired a rocket into Israel, killing 3 **PRC men**; on a car driven by **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** in Jabaliya r.c. who allegedly were on their way to launch a rocket, wounding 2; on 2 cars driven by **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** mbrs. in Gaza City, wounding 3. In addition, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, Tulkarm. In Gaza City, **10,000s of Palestinians** attend the funeral of PRC leader Samhadana, assassinated on 6/8. (NYT, WP 6/10; IFM 6/11; MM, NYT 6/12; MM 6/14; PCHR 6/15; MM 6/16; OCHA 6/21; MA 6/25 in WNC 6/26)

10 JUNE

In retaliation for the death of 8 Palestinians in IDF shelling of the Gaza beach on 6/9, **Hamas mbrs.** fire at least 15 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Mbrs. of the **AMB-Nablus faction** kidnap an American tourist in the city, thinking he is Israeli; hold him for several hours, demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange, but free him when they realize he is not Israeli. Meanwhile, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c., Jenin and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah (NYT, WP 6/11; PCHR 6/15)

11 JUNE

**Hamas, Islamic Jihad** fire some 30 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, some of which hit a college campus nr. Sderot (wounding 4 Israelis) and a house (causing damage but no injuries). The **IDF**, which has halted artillery fire until an investigation of the 6/9 strike that killed 8 Palestinians is completed (the **IDF** now argues that an errant Palestinian rocket was to blame), responds with air strikes on n. Gaza, hitting a group of Hamas mbrs. preparing to fire a rocket nr. Bayt Lahiya (killing 2 **Hamas mbrs.** )
and targeting a car driven by Hamas mburs. (wounding 3 bystanders). An Islamic Jihad mbr. is reportedly killed when a rocket he is preparing to fire explodes. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., nr. Bethlehem; begins uprooting Palestinian trees, leveling agricultural land s. of Qalqilya for a new settler bypass road between Oranit and Sha’are Tikva settlements. A Hamas mbr. dies of injuries received in clashes with PA security officers on 6/1. (IFM, REU 6/11; NYT, WP 6/12; PCHR 6/15; OCHA 6/21)

12 JUNE

The IDF sends undercover units into Tulkarm in a car with Palestinian license plates to arrest a wanted Palestinian; later sends a 2d undercover unit into Tulkarm that is intercepted by PA security forces, withdraws after an exchange of fire, causing no injuries; sends undercover units into Jenin, who exchange fire with local gunmen, withdraw under IDF support, without making any arrests; demolishes a Palestinian home nr. Jenin next to the separation wall; patrols in Tubas, firing on residential areas; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, Tulkarm and in Aida r.c., al-Fara’a r.c. (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops). In Rafah, at least 100 Fatah, Hamas gunmen clash, leaving 1 Hamas mbr. and 1 Palestinian bystander dead and 15 Palestinians wounded, with Hamas firing antitank weapons and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at the local PSF headquarters. (Hamas says that Fatah gunmen fired on a Hamas funeral procession, precipitating the clash, while Fatah says that gunfire fired on a Hamas funeral procession in Jabaliya r.c., wounding 3 Palestinian teenagers; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and nr. Bethlehem, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops.) Soon after, 100s of Fatah-dominated PA security forces and AMB mburs. react to the Gaza violence rampage through Ramallah, Nablus, and targeting a car driven by Hamas mburs. (wounding 3 bystanders). An Islamic Jihad mbr. is reportedly killed when a rocket he is preparing to fire explodes. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., nr. Bethlehem; begins uprooting Palestinian trees, leveling agricultural land s. of Qalqilya for a new settler bypass road between Oranit and Sha’are Tikva settlements. A Hamas mbr. dies of injuries received in clashes with PA security officers on 6/1. (IFM, REU 6/11; NYT, WP 6/12; PCHR 6/15; OCHA 6/21)

12 JUNE

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A Lebanese, Mahmoud Rafih, confesses to running a network for Mossad, killing a senior Islamic Jihad mbr. on 5/26. (WP 6/14; MM 6/16; XIN 6/17; MM 6/20; SFR 6/21)

13 JUNE

Overnight, 10,000s of Hamas supporters rally outside the PC building in Ramallah in solidarity with the Hamas-led government. During the day, the IDF launches an air strike at a minibus traveling in downtown Gaza City, assassinating 2 Islamic Jihad mburs. (Shawqi al-Saiqali, Hamad Wadiya); 7 minutes later, as medics and crowds gather at the scene, the IDF makes a 2d air strike on the site, killing 4 Palestinian medics, 5 Palestinian bystanders, wounding 52; IDF chief of staff Dan Halutz says, “We are saddened by the deaths of these innocent Palestinians but hold absolutely no responsibility for them.” The IDF also occupies a Palestinian home in Jenin as a sniper post, then assassinates AMB mbr. Muhammad al-Walish with a bullet to the chest (the target of an assassination attempt earlier in 2006); fires across the border on a funeral procession in Jabaliya r.c., wounding 3 Palestinian teenagers; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and nr. Bethlehem, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops.) Soon after, 100s of Fatah-dominated PA security forces and AMB mburs. react to the Gaza violence rampage through Ramallah, Nablus, and targeting a car driven by Hamas mburs. (wounding 3 bystanders). An Islamic Jihad mbr. is reportedly killed when a rocket he is preparing to fire explodes. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., nr. Bethlehem; begins uprooting Palestinian trees, leveling agricultural land s. of Qalqilya for a new settler bypass road between Oranit and Sha’are Tikva settlements. A Hamas mbr. dies of injuries received in clashes with PA security officers on 6/1. (IFM, REU 6/11; NYT, WP 6/12; PCHR 6/15; OCHA 6/21)
14 JUNE

The IDF patrols in Kafr Haris, Tubas (firing on residential areas); conducts arrest raids, house searches in Askar r.c. nr. Nablus, al-Til nr. Tulkarm and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. Islamic Jihad fires 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In Ramallah, 10s of PA employees aligned with Fatah temporarily take over the PC building, demanding salaries. After Hamas mbrs. shoot, wound a PSF officer in Khan Yunis, Fatah mbrs. assassinate a senior Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbr. (MM 6/14; MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/15; PCHR 6/22)

15 JUNE

After suspending its unilateral cease-fire on 6/9, Hamas says it will halt all fire for 7 days; if Israel stops targeting Palestinian civilians during that period, it will extend the cease-fire and lobby other factions to do the same. The IDF kills 3 Palestinian militants allegedly planting explosives nr. the border fence in central Gaza; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus. Islamic Jihad fires at least 5 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, wounding 3 Israelis, damaging a factory building in Sderot. (MM 6/15; NYT, WP, WT 6/16; OCHA 6/21; PCHR 6/22)

16 JUNE

The IDF makes an air strike on Islamic Jihad mbrs. in Gaza who fired rockets into Israel (no damage or injuries), killing Islamic Jihad mbrs. Habib Ashur and Imad Yasin, wounding several bystanders; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Nablus, and nr. Jenin, Ramallah; bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land nr. Shavei Shomron settlement. (PNN, WT 6/17; PCHR 6/22)

17 JUNE

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, Nablus. Dozens of Jewish settlers escorted by the IDF march through Palestinian areas of Hebron, attacking Palestinians and vandalizing property. Jewish settlers fr. Ma’on sneak into a Palestinian village nr. Hebron, steal a donkey. (HA 6/17; PCHR 6/22)

18 JUNE

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin, Nablus, in Bethlehem, and nr. Hebron; raids a hospital and al-Quds Open University campus nr. Hebron, holding medical personnel and students for ID checks; sends troops into Tubas, stopping and searching a PA security force vehicle, confiscating the vehicle but releasing the 2 officers. Palestinians fire 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no injuries but temporarily cutting power to parts of Sderot. In an apparent assassination attempt, Fatah-affiliated PSF mbrs. fr. Khan Yunis ambush, fire on a car nr. Rafah driven by Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades cmdr. Ala’ Radwan, who apparently is unharmed; Fatah, Hamas officials meet to discuss the incident. (HA 6/19; OSC 6/19 in WNC 6/20; NYT 6/20; PCHR 6/22)

19 JUNE

The IDF announces that it will begin implementing a new policy of attacking Hamas targets for each Palestinian rocket strike, regardless of what group is responsible for the fire; makes a helicopter air strike on a foundry in Gaza City allegedly used to build rockets, causing no injuries; demolishes a Palestinian home nr. Ramallah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dura, nr. Jenin and Tulkarm, and in and around Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. Palestinians fire 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. An unidentified Palestinian gunman fires on a Jewish settler bus nr. Ofra settlement n. of Jerusalem, lightly wounding 1 woman. Jewish settlers fr. Beit Hadasah in Hebron vandalizes several Palestinian homes, beat a 60-yr.-old Palestinian. Hamas mbrs. retaliating for the attempted assassination of 1 of their mbrs. on 6/18 fire grenades, rifles at a PSF office in Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. Meanwhile, Fatah, Hamas mbrs. sign a “national honor document” in Ramallah, pledging to avoid clashes and to resolve their disputes through negotiation. (HA, XIN 6/19; MA 6/19, 6/22 in WNC 6/23; WP 6/20; PCHR 6/22)

20 JUNE

Israel’s DM Peretz, fmr. Israeli DM and current Dep. PM and Transportation M Shaul Mofaz approve Israeli defense contacts with PA municipal officials and “PA functionaries not associated with Hamas on
issues deemed essential by both sides," but not with PA Ms or dir. gens. of the ministries. Israeli DMin. officials acknowledge that Hamas has been observing the cease-fire it announced on 6/15. The IDF makes an air strike on a car with 3 AMB mb.rs. driving in central Gaza City, but the men escape before the rocket hits; 3 Palestinian children (ages 5, 6, 16) are killed, 2 AMB mb.rs. and 13 bystanders including many children are injured. The IDF also demolishes a Palestinian home in East Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches and around Jenin, Nablus (clashing with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 1 Palestinian gunman dead, 2 bystanders wounded) and nr. Hebron (searching an Islamic charitable society, confiscating files, computers, cell phones). Islamic Jihad fires 3 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Israel also deports Tulkarm resident Rasmi Subayh, held in administrative detention since 9/05, to Gaza for 2 yrs. Jewish settlers in Hebron stone to death a 30-yr.-old Palestinian in Hebron nr. Jenin, Nablus (firing on residential areas and stone-throwing youths, causing no injuries), Nablus (firing on residential areas, then firing live ammunition at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries), Nablus (firing rubber bullets at stone-throwing youths, wounding 12); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron, and in Bethlehem and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah. In Gaza City, a bomb goes off in a car driven by a mbr. of the Fatah-dominated PSF, injuring the 3 people in the car; no group claims responsibility. Unidentified gunmen shoot, wound 2 Fatah mb.rs. in Khan Yunis. (OCHA 6/21; ITV, MENA, VOI, YA 6/21 in WNC 6/22; HA, MM, PCHR, WP, WT 6/22; VOI, YA 6/22 in WNC 6/23; HA 6/24; OCHA 6/28; PCHR 6/29)

22 JUNE

The IDF sends an undercover unit into Ramallah in a car with Palestinian license plates, assassinates wanted AMB mbr. Ayman Jabarin, shooting him 10 times; partially lifts the security alert on Rafah crossing, allowing EU monitors to open the crossing for several hrs.; conducts random ID checks in Hebron, seriously beating 1 Palestinian. Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize several homes in the Palestinian section of Hebron. Jewish settlers fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron beat 2 Palestinians. (IMEMC 6/22; HA 6/24; PCHR 6/29)

23 JUNE

The IDF makes its 1st arrest raid into Gaza since the 9/05 disengagement, temporarily closing the Rafah crossing and sending troops 1.000 m into Rafah to detain 2 wanted Palestinians, allegedly mbrs. of Hamas; Hamas denies the men belong to the group. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Tulkarm r.c. (firing on residential areas), and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya. Islamic Jihad fires 3 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Jewish settlers fr. Suissa s. of Hebron beat a Palestinian grazing animals nearby. Jewish settlers fr. Yitzhar set fire to 3 Palestinian cars, a tractor outside Nablus. Jewish settlers fr. Tal Rumayda in Hebron attack 4 international peace activists escorting Palestinian children to school; IDF soldiers observe but do not intervene. Mbrs. of the Hamas-dominated ESF fire on the home of a PSF mbr. in Khan Yunis, wounding 1 bystander. (MM 6/23; HA 6/24; WP, WT 6/25; OCHA, World Council of Churches press release 6/28; PCHR 6/29)

24 JUNE

The IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus (firing on residential areas and stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, seriously wounding 1), in Hebron, and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin. Palestinians fire a rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Abbas deploys mbrs of Force 17 (under his command) to Qarni crossing to take over
security responsibility fr. security forces under Interior M Siyam’s control (see Quarterly Update). **Unidentified gunmen** kidnap, shoot and wound a **PA intelligence service officer** nr. Kerem Shalom with grenades, rifles, antitank rockets, killing 2 **IDF soldiers**, wounding 4, capturing 1 (**IDF soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit**), apparently wounded in the exchange) in what they call **Operation Dispel Illusion; 2 Palestinian gunmen** are killed by retaliatory fire; the IDF sends tanks, bulldozers a half-mile in- 
around Nablus (firing on a clearly marked IDF post nr. Kerem Shalom with grenades, rifles, antitank rockets, killing 2 **IDF soldiers**, wounding 4, capturing 1 (**IDF soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit**), apparently wounded in the exchange) in what they call **Operation Dispel Illusion; 2 Palestinian gunmen** are killed by retaliatory fire; the IDF sends tanks, bulldozers a half-mile inside Gaza to search for the captured soldier, the tunnel; several groups including Hamas’s **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades**, the **PRCs**, and a previously unknown group, the **Army of Islam**, jointly claim the attack as retaliation for the IDF’s 6/8 Abu Samhadana as-
sassination; **Abbas, some Hamas political leaders** call for the captured IDF soldier’s immediate release. In response, **Israel** shuts all crossings into Gaza (including forcing the closing of the Rafah crossing by barring EU **monitors** fr. entering Gaza through Kerem Shalom, leaving as many as 3,000 **Palestinians** stranded on the border inside Egypt, and some **400 medical patients** awaiting treatment abroad stranded on the Gaza side); shuts off fuel supplies to Gaza; bars Palestinian fishermen fr. going out to sea; tightens restrictions on Palestinian move-
ment at checkpoints and roadblocks across the West Bank. During the day, the **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus (firing on a clearly marked al-Jazeera TV vehicle, causing damage but no injuries), and nr. Hebron, Jenin (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 2), Qalqilya. (AFP, HA, IFM, YA 6/25; MENA, OSC, VOI 6/25 in WNC 6/26; AFP, AP, CSM, JP, MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA 6/26; WT 6/27; NYT, OCHA 6/28; PCHR 6/29; NYT 7/8)

26 JUNE

**Palestinian gunmen holding Shalit** issue a statement demanding the release of all 113 Palestinian women and 318 children fr. Israeli jails in return for information on Shalit’s condition; **Israel** refuses, pro-
ceeds with plans to free Shalit itself, sending 3 additional armored battalions (more than 3,000 troops) to the Gaza border in warning. **Egypt** deploys 2,500 border guards along the Rafah border to prevent the kidnappers fr. trying to sneak Shalit into Egypt. **Abbas, Haniyeh** coordinate deployment of Abbas’s presidential guard, other PA security forces to conduct house-to-house searches to find Shalit. Haniyeh urges the gunmen to “re-
spect [Shalit] as a prisoner” but does not call for his release; calls on all militant groups to maintain a cease-fire so as to avoid a massive Israeli retaliation. **Egyptian envoys** begin attempts to mediate Shalit’s release. **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. During the day, the **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem and Ram-
allah, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; begins work on a new segment of the separation wall nr. Tene settlement s. of Hebron that will annex at least 100 d. of Palestinian land to the set-
tement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Suissa burn 10 tons of hay stored by local Palestinian farmers. Meanwhile, the **Israeli High Court** rules that the government and IDF cannot bar Palestinians farmers in the West Bank fr. reaching their lands on the grounds that it is protecting them fr. **Jewish settlers**; must prevent settlers from harming Palestinian land, property, persons. (HA, IMEMC, MM, XIN 6/26; MENA, OSC, VOI 6/26 in WNC 6/27; HA, NYT, WP, WT 6/27; VOP 6/27 in WNC 6/28; PCHR 6/29)

27 JUNE

As the **IDF** continues to prepare for a ground invasion of Gaza, moving into place 2 infantry regiments, bringing the total build-
up along the border to 5,000 troops, **Pales-
tinian militants** in Gaza begin building sand berms, setting explosive devices along major routes an invading force might take; the U.S. urges Israel to give diplomacy time to work before launching a military oper-
ation. The **IDF** also reopens Gaza’s Erez crossing to reps. of international agencies and PA officials with VIP status (though they must cross on foot); conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya; sends troops into al-Fara’a r.c., firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 3; conducts arrest raids, house searches in
Qabatya, nr. Tulkarm; begins work on a new segment of the separation wall in Bayt Jala nr. Bethlehem, uprooting 200 Palestinian olive trees. The PRCs announced that they have kidnapped an 18-yr-old Jewish settler fr. Ithamar, who was last seen hitchhiking nr. French Hill settlement in East Jerusalem on 6/25. A car bomb explodes in Gaza City, killing Hamas military cmdr. Hamza Abu Mukharrab, wounding several bystanders; the IDF denies responsibility; no other group claims it. PSF mbrs. shoot, wound a Hamas mbr. in Khan Yunis in what may be a continuation of 6/23–24 clashes. (HA, MM, REU, PCHR 6/27; JP; MENA, OsC, PSCT, VOP 6/27 in WNC 6/28; HA, NYT, OCHA, WP; WT 6/28; PCHR 6/29)

28 JUNE

Overnight, the IDF launches Operation Summer Rains, sending ground troops into s. Gaza; retaking the Dahaniyya airport area as a base, demolishing 5 Palestinian homes and bulldozing land to improve lines of sight, and blowing up 3 bridges to control movement between the Rafah and Gaza City environs; conducting 7 air strikes on Gaza’s only electricity plant nr. Gaza City and 6 transformer stations, wounding 2 Palestinians, blacking out 45% of the Strip, and leaving Gaza fully dependent on electricity fr. Israel; shelling open areas of s. Gaza; repeatedly breaking the sound barrier over the Strip. The IDF’s elite Givati Brigade deploys outside n. Gaza, prepared to enter if rocket attacks resume. Midafternoon, IDF artillery begins shelling n. Gaza for the 1st time since the 6/9 incident that killed 8 Palestinians. After Palestinians fire 2 rockets into Israel in response (causing no damage or injuries), the IDF warns n. Gaza residents to evacuate the area, with Olmert saying that IDF operations will escalate until Shalit is released. In response to Syrian persu. Bashar al-Asad and Hamas’s Damascus-based leadership, the Israeli air force makes overflights of Asad’s residence in Latakia (where he is believed to be staying) and along the Syrian coast. Meanwhile, Palestinians fire 6 more rockets toward Israel, but all land inside Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. The AMB says it has kidnapped a 62-yr.-old Israeli man fr. Rishon Letzion, inside Israel, who has been missing since 6/26; issues a statement threatening to target Israeli embassies abroad. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Iktaba nr. Tulkarm; raids a Fatah office in al-Bireh, confiscating computers, arresting 3 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm, nr. Hebron. In Khan Yunis, 2 Palestinian children are killed when they accidentally detonate unexploded IDF ordnance. In West Jerusalem, around 100 ultra-Orthodox Jews attack a tour group of 50 pro-Israel Christians for wearing shirts saying “love your neighbor as yourself”; Israeli police intervene to stop the attack but make no arrests; 3 tourists, 1 police officer are injured. (AP, BBC, B’Tselem press release, HA, IFM, IMEMC, ITY, MM, NYT, PCHR, REU, Voice of the Arabs [Cairo], WP, WT; YA 6/28; OCHA 6/28 in WNC 6/30; BBC, CSM, HA, IMEMC, MM, NYT, REU, WP, WT 6/29; Globe, PCHR 6/29; HJ 7/1 in WNC 7/1; see also AFP, MENA, PSCT 6/27 in WNC 6/28; OCHA 6/30; PCHR 7/6; REU 7/11)

29 JUNE

Overnight, the IDF stages scores of arrest raids across the West Bank detaining 64 senior Hamas political officials, including 8 PA cabinet mbrs. and 26 PC mbrs., plus 23 senior Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbrs. Haniyeh, Siyam, PA FM Mahmoud Zahhar remain free. (100s of Palestinians in Jenin, Ramallah, Tulkarm hold marches, sit-ins to protest the Israeli arrest of PA legislators.) Israel says the arrest campaign has been planned for wks., with the government securing Atty. Gen. Menachem Mazuz’s authorization and arrest warrants far in advance of the Kerem Shalom attack on 6/25. In Gaza, the IDF shells 2 electricity transformers and open areas of n. Gaza, cutting all electricity to n. Gaza and wounding 1 Palestinian civilian; makes air strikes on 3 electrical shops in Khan Yunis, a Hamas training camp outside Khan Yunis, a car carrying 4 Islamic Jihad mbrs. in Gaza City, wounding 3 bystanders in the Gaza City incident; fires at least 30 shells at areas around Khan Yunis, wounding 1 Palestinian farmer; conducts house searches in al-Shuka nr. Rafah; intermittently breaks the sound barrier to harass the Gaza population. In response to Israel’s military escalation, the PRC mbrs. overnight kill a Jewish settler teenager they reported they kidnapped on 6/27; the IDF finds his body buried nr. Ramallah. During the day, the IDF makes an air strikes on targets in s. Gaza and on a car driving in Gaza City in an attempt to assassinate an Islamic Jihad mbr., who escapes lightly wounded; shells n. and s. Gaza, lightly wounding at least 3 Palestinians. AMB, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Islamic
Jihad, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) members, also fire at least 6 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing light damage to a farm. Palestinian militants (thought to be Hamas) blow a hole in the Gaza-Egypt border fence; cordons of PA security forces (Egyptian border guards) prevent most Palestinians fr. crossing through, though the militants who set the bomb reportedly escape into Egypt. In the evening, Olmert, Peretz order the IDF to suspend plans to send the Givati Brigade into n. Gaza overnight as planned in light of requests fr. Egypt to allow its envoys in Gaza more time to secure Shalit’s release. Meanwhile in the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches (unrelated to the arrest of PA officials) in Hebron, and in and around Ramallah, Salfit; raids 6 Islamic charities and schools nr. Hebron, Jenin and in Bethlehem, Tulkarm, confiscating computers, files; issues military orders confiscating 25 d. of Palestinian land nr. Hebron for construction of the separation wall. (HA, IFM, IMEMC, JAZ, MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA 6/29; AFP, MENA, OSC, PSCT, VOI, VOP 6/29 in WNC 6/30; CSM, HA, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 6/30; OSC, PSCT, YA 6/30 in WNC 7/1; al-Ayyam 7/1 in WNC 7/2; HA, PCHR 7/6; PCHR 7/27)

30 JUNE

Overnight in Gaza, the IDF makes air strikes on at least 20 targets, including PA Interior Min. offices (saying they were used to plan terrorist attacks), buildings used by the AMB and Hamas, an ESF training camp, a PA intelligence office, several roads, and open areas; continues to shell n. Gaza, to break the sound barrier over the Strip; conducts arrest raids in Rafah. The only reported casualties are 1 Islamic Jihad mbr. killed in an air strike on a rocket launching site in Rafah, 3 Palestinian gunmen (AMB or Islamic Jihad) wounded nr. Jabaliya r.c., and 7 Palestinian bystanders (including 5-yr.-old Palestinian girl) wounded in shelling of n. Gaza. Israel also revokes the residency rights of Hamas-affiliated PA Jerusalem Affairs M Khalid Abu ‘Arafah and Change and Reform PC mbrs. Muhammad Abu Tir. Ahmad Attoun, Muhammad Totah (detailed on 6/28–29), giving them 30 days to appeal or renounce their positions within the PA. The PRCs fire at least 3 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF sends an undercover unit into Nablus, surrounding a cemetery, fatally shooting 1 Palestinian teenager, wounding and arresting a 2d Palestinian, arresting 2 others, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 31; also raids an Islamic charity in Nablus, confiscating a computer, files; conducts additional arrest raids in and around Nablus, in Jenin. IDF Central Command head Maj. Gen. Ya’ir Naveh says that the main crossing between Jerusalem and Bethlehem is now closed to Palestinians who hold Israeli IDs (including 237,000 East Jerusalem residents), enforcement (which reportedly is irregular at present) may be expanded to other crossings into the West Bank soon. (HA, IMEMC, MM, PCHR, WP, YA 6/30; OSC, XIN 6/30 in WNC 7/1; IMEMC, NYT, WP 7/1; VOP 7/1 in WNC 7/2; PCHR 7/6)

1 JULY

As Operation Summer Rains continues, the IDF sends a small number of additional troops into s. Gaza nr. the border to search for explosives and tunnels, though the main force occupying Dahaniyya airport largely remains idle since taking over the site on 6/28; makes air strikes on Hamas targets in s. Gaza, causing no reported injuries but destroying 2 greenhouses, damaging several homes and a rehabilitation center; conducts arrest raids in Abasan e. of Khan Yunis, also bulldozing 110 d. of olive trees and agricultural land; continues to shell areas of n. Gaza (wounding 1 Palestinian civilian), to conduct nightly flights over the Strip breaking the sound barrier. Palestinian gunmen fire on the troops, hit an IDF bulldozer with an antitank missile, causing damage but no injuries. The Palestinian groups holding Shalit issue a 2d demand that Israel release 1,000 Palestinian prisoners, including women and children, in an exchange. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; raids, searches 5 Islamic charities in Jenin and Jericho and the offices of Manbar al-Islal newspaper in Ramallah, confiscating computers, files. (OSC, VOP 7/1 in WNC 7/2; WP 7/2; PCHR 7/6)

2 JULY

Overnight, the IDF escalates its military operations in Gaza, making air strikes on Haniyeh’s empty Gaza City offices (destroying them, but causing no casualties), an Interior Min. office used by the ESF (killing 1 Hamas volunteer with the ESF, wounding
a 2d) in Jabaliya r.c., 2 ESF training sites in Gaza City (no casualties), a Gaza City school (causing damage but no injuries); shells the s. Gaza coast fr. the sea, causing no injuries; continues to shell open areas in n. Gaza (setting fire to a Palestinian home), break the sound barrier over the Strip. **Egyptian security envoy Omar Sulayman** cancels plans to visit Gaza as Egyptian mediation efforts to free Cpl. Shalit will not result in a deal, though lower-level efforts continue. During the day, the IDF reduces the rate of shelling of n. Gaza; fatally shoots 3 armed Palestinians nr. the Dahaniyya airport. Under international pressure, **Olmert** allows Qarni crossing to open for 5 hrs. for the import of basic goods, resumes fuel deliveries to Gaza through Nahal Oz to ease the humanitarian situation. In the West Bank, the IDF raids a Nablus hospital in a failed search for a wanted Palestinian, firing on the surrounding neighborhood (wounding 1 Palestinian) and stone-throwing youths who confront the troops (wounding 6); patrols in and around Nablus, bulldozing several Palestinian vehicles, raiding and shutting down transmission of the Nablus TV station; raids 4 Islamic charities and a clinic in ‘Askar r.c., 3 other charities in Bethlehem, nr. Qalqilya, and in Tulkarm, confiscating computers, files; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, hunting a Palestinian in a home nr. Bayt Hanun). City; continues shelling n. Gaza (wounding sev- al-Qassam Brigades; steps up air strikes on bases, leveling land, searching for roadside bombs and tunnels that could obstruct a large-scale military in-cursion into Gaza (as PA security forces pull out of their border positions at Erez, Palestinians stream into the industrial zone to scavenger fr. closed businesses there); continues to break the sound barrier over Gaza and to make air and artillery strikes on n. Gaza, killing 1 PA security officer, wounding several Palestinians, and destroying an empty building on Islamic University campus. During the day, the IDF continues the n. Gaza build-up, reoccupying the fmr. Nisani settlement site, occupying 2 more Palestinian homes as operational bases, bulldozing a PA security force base in Bayt Hanun; fires on residential areas around Erez (wounding a Palestinian child) and on a Palestinian Energy Authority repair crew attempting to fix a transformer in the area. The IDF also allows **Qarni crossing** to reopen for several hrs. to import humanitarian supplies from the World Food Program (WFP) and UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East); WFP reports that there are only 2 days left of sugar and 8 days left of animal feed in Gaza and that milk and dairy products are only available in small quantities. Meanwhile, the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades fire a 2-engine Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting an empty school nr. Ashkelon, 7.5 mi inside Is- rael (the longest-range rocket to date). In the West Bank, the IDF raids Jenin, ambushes and fires on a car, assassinating wanted **AMB Jenin cmrnd. Fida’i Qandil**, wounding a passenger; raids a PA police station in Ramallah, detaining 3 Palestinians captured by the PA in connection with the murder of a Jewish settler on 6/29; arrests Hamas spokesman Farhat Asad nr. Ramallah; patrols in, fires on residential areas of al-Fara’a r.c. nr. Jenin, wounding 2 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, in Nablus and Qalqilya, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers**

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Nablus, and nr. Bethlehem; raids an Islamic charity nr. Bethlehem, confiscating computers. (MM, NYT, WT 7/5; NYT, WT, YA 7/4; PCHR 7/6)

4 JULY

Overnight, the IDF sends another 15–20 tanks and armored personnel carriers (APCs) into Bayt Hanun and into the Erez industrial zone, leveling land to clear lines of sight, searching for roadside bombs and tunnels that could obstruct a large-scale military in-cursion into Gaza (as PA security forces pull out of their border positions at Erez, Palestinians stream into the industrial zone to scavenger fr. closed businesses there); continues to break the sound barrier over Gaza and to make air and artillery strikes on n. Gaza, killing 1 PA security officer, wounding several Palestinians, and destroying an empty building on Islamic University campus. During the day, the IDF continues the n. Gaza build-up, reoccupying the fmr. Nisani settlement site, occupying 2 more Palestinian homes as operational bases, bulldozing a PA security force base in Bayt Hanun; fires on residential areas around Erez (wounding a Palestinian child) and on a Palestinian Energy Authority repair crew attempting to fix a transformer in the area. The IDF also allows **Qarni crossing** to reopen for several hrs. to import humanitarian supplies from the World Food Program (WFP) and UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East); WFP reports that there are only 2 days left of sugar and 8 days left of animal feed in Gaza and that milk and dairy products are only available in small quantities. Meanwhile, the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades fire a 2-engine Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting an empty school nr. Ashkelon, 7.5 mi inside Is- rael (the longest-range rocket to date). In the West Bank, the IDF raids Jenin, ambushes and fires on a car, assassinating wanted **AMB Jenin cmrnd. Fida’i Qandil**, wounding a passenger; raids a PA police station in Ramallah, detaining 3 Palestinians captured by the PA in connection with the murder of a Jewish settler on 6/29; arrests Hamas spokesman Farhat Asad nr. Ramallah; patrols in, fires on residential areas of al-Fara’a r.c. nr. Jenin, wounding 2 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, in Nablus and Qalqilya, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers**

3 JULY

Before dawn, the IDF begins moving tanks into the Bayt Hanun area of n. Gaza, oc- cupying 4 Palestinian homes as operational bases, leveling land, searching for roadside bombs and tunnels; steps up air strikes on Gaza, hitting AMB offices in central Gaza City; continues shelling n. Gaza (wounding a Palestinian in a home nr. Bayt Hanun). City; continues shelling n. Gaza; (**Olmert**) allows Qarni crossing to open for 5 hrs. for the import of basic goods, resumes fuel deliveries to Gaza through Nahal Oz to ease the humanitarian situation. In the West Bank, the IDF raids a Nablus hospital in a failed search for a wanted Palestinian, firing on the surrounding neighborhood (wounding 1 Palestinian) and stone-throwing youths who confront the troops (wounding 6); patrols in and around Nablus, bulldozing several Palestinian vehicles, raiding and shutting down transmission of the Nablus TV station; raids 4 Islamic charities and a clinic in ‘Askar r.c., 3 other charities in Bethlehem, nr. Qalqilya, and in Tulkarm, confiscating computers, files; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, hunting a Palestinian in a home nr. Bayt Hanun). City; continues shelling n. Gaza (wounding sev- al-Qassam Brigades; steps up air strikes on bases, leveling land, searching for roadside bombs and tunnels that could obstruct a large-scale military in-cursion into Gaza (as PA security forces pull out of their border positions at Erez, Palestinians stream into the industrial zone to scavenger fr. closed businesses there); continues to break the sound barrier over Gaza and to make air and artillery strikes on n. Gaza, killing 1 PA security officer, wounding several Palestinians, and destroying an empty building on Islamic University campus. During the day, the IDF continues the n. Gaza build-up, reoccupying the fmr. Nisani settlement site, occupying 2 more Palestinian homes as operational bases, bulldozing a PA security force base in Bayt Hanun; fires on residential areas around Erez (wounding a Palestinian child) and on a Palestinian Energy Authority repair crew attempting to fix a transformer in the area. The IDF also allows **Qarni crossing** to reopen for several hrs. to import humanitarian supplies from the World Food Program (WFP) and UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East); WFP reports that there are only 2 days left of sugar and 8 days left of animal feed in Gaza and that milk and dairy products are only available in small quantities. Meanwhile, the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades fire a 2-engine Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting an empty school nr. Ashkelon, 7.5 mi inside Is- rael (the longest-range rocket to date). In the West Bank, the IDF raids Jenin, ambushes and fires on a car, assassinating wanted **AMB Jenin cmrnd. Fida’i Qandil**, wounding a passenger; raids a PA police station in Ramallah, detaining 3 Palestinians captured by the PA in connection with the murder of a Jewish settler on 6/29; arrests Hamas spokesman Farhat Asad nr. Ramallah; patrols in, fires on residential areas of al-Fara’a r.c. nr. Jenin, wounding 2 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, in Nablus and Qalqilya, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers**

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Nablus, and nr. Bethlehem; raids an Islamic charity nr. Bethlehem, confiscating computers. (MM, NYT, WT 7/5; NYT, WT, YA 7/4; PCHR 7/6)

4 JULY

Overnight, the IDF sends another 15–20 tanks and armored personnel carriers (APCs) into Bayt Hanun and into the Erez industrial zone, leveling land to clear lines of sight, searching for roadside bombs and tunnels that could obstruct a large-scale military in-cursion into Gaza (as PA security forces pull out of their border positions at Erez, Palestinians stream into the industrial zone to scavenger fr. closed businesses there); continues to break the sound barrier over Gaza and to make air and artillery strikes on n. Gaza, killing 1 PA security officer, wounding several Palestinians, and destroying an empty building on Islamic University campus. During the day, the IDF continues the n. Gaza build-up, reoccupying the fmr. Nisani settlement site, occupying 2 more Palestinian homes as operational bases, bulldozing a PA security force base in Bayt Hanun; fires on residential areas around Erez (wounding a Palestinian child) and on a Palestinian Energy Authority repair crew attempting to fix a transformer in the area. The IDF also allows **Qarni crossing** to reopen for several hrs. to import humanitarian supplies from the World Food Program (WFP) and UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East); WFP reports that there are only 2 days left of sugar and 8 days left of animal feed in Gaza and that milk and dairy products are only available in small quantities. Meanwhile, the Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades fire a 2-engine Qassam rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting an empty school nr. Ashkelon, 7.5 mi inside Is- rael (the longest-range rocket to date). In the West Bank, the IDF raids Jenin, ambushes and fires on a car, assassinating wanted **AMB Jenin cmrnd. Fida’i Qandil**, wounding a passenger; raids a PA police station in Ramallah, detaining 3 Palestinians captured by the PA in connection with the murder of a Jewish settler on 6/29; arrests Hamas spokesman Farhat Asad nr. Ramallah; patrols in, fires on residential areas of al-Fara’a r.c. nr. Jenin, wounding 2 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, in Nablus and Qalqilya, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers**

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Nablus, and nr. Bethlehem; raids an Islamic charity nr. Bethlehem, confiscating computers. (MM, NYT, WT 7/5; NYT, WT, YA 7/4; PCHR 7/6)
fr. Mehola nr. Tubas attack Palestinian farmers working their fields nearby. (HA, IMEMC, MM, NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WT, YA 7/4; NYT, WP, WT 7/5; OCHA, PCHR 7/6)

5 JULY

Before dawn, the IDF responds to Hamas’s 7/3 rocket fire on Ashqelon by carrying out air strikes on the PA Interior Min. in Gaza City (destroying it and wounding at least 7 Palestinians in homes nearby, including 4 children), a Hamas-run school in Gaza City, a Hamas training camp in s. Gaza. Later, Hamas fires a 2d 2-engine Qassam rocket that lands outside Ashqelon, causing no damage or injuries, the Israeli security cabinet authorizes the IDF to step up operations in Gaza and the West Bank aimed at halting rocket fire and “striking at institutions and infrastructures that serve terrorism,” particularly targeting Hamas. During the day, the IDF moves more tanks, troops into n. Gaza and begins to push south toward Bayt Hanun and Jabaliya r.c., reoccupying fmr. settlement sites, occupying a 7th Palestinian home as an operational base, exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen and shelling (fr. land and sea) areas where militants are allegedly burying explosives, killing 1 Hamas mbr., 1 PA naval officer, wounding at least 17 Palestinians (10 PA naval officers at a barracks nr. where the Hamas mbr. was killed, 7 children). In Gaza City, 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs., are killed when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the IDF sends troops into ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, surrounds a building, orders wanted AMB cmdr. Mahmud Haymur to surrender, ordering him to undress when he emerges and then executing him by shooting him in the head at point blank range; surrounds, fires on a PA police station in Halhul nr. Hebron, demanding custody of an Israeli Palestinian believed to be held there (police allow soldiers to search the station to confirm he is not there); raids 3 Islamic charities nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Nablus, confiscating computers, vandalizing offices; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and Nablus, nr. Tulkarm and Qalqilya, and in Bethlehem. Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba, under IDF escort, begin work on a new settler bypass road linking the settlement to the Ibrahimi Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs. In Gaza City, unidentified gunmen assassinate senior Hamas mbr. Husayn Abu Ajwa, who is considered a leading promoter of religious and political reform within the movement. (IMF, NYT, PCHR, REU, WP, WT 7/5; HA, NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WP, WT 7/6; HA 7/8; PCHR 7/13; OCHA 7/18)

6 JULY

Overnight and during the day, the IDF continues to expand its presence in n. Gaza, entering populated areas for the 1st time since disengagement, meeting strong resistance fr. Palestinians, who use RPGs, rifles, roadside bombs and fire 8 rockets toward Israel (only 4 land inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries). The IDF uses air strikes, artillery, tanks, and gunfire as well as bulldozes fields, roads, and open areas to widen the n. Gaza buffer zone; the clashes, mostly concentrated in Bayt Lahiya but also in s. Gaza, leave at least 24 Palestinians (many reportedly Hamas mbrs., but also including at least 2 children), 1 IDF soldier (hit by friendly fire) dead and wound some 80 Palestinians (nearly a third of them children), 1 IDF soldier. The IDF also bulldozes areas around Khan Yunis, demolishing 3 Palestinian homes; opens Erez and Qarni crossings for several hrs. for the movement of international aid workers, humanitarian goods. Palestinian gunmen also fire on an al-Jazeera TV car in Bayt Hanun, believing it to be an IDF undercover unit, wounding the driver, 1 journalist. In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units into a memorial service in Jenin r.c. for an AMB mbr. killed on 7/5, attempts to assassinate the AMB’s n. West Bank cmdr. Zakariya Zubaydi and local Islamic Jihad leader Mahmoud al-Sadi, fatally shooting 2 Palestinian teenagers, wounding 18; Sadi, Zubaydi escape. The IDF also raids an Islamic charity nr. Hebron; demolishes a Palestinian home nr. Jerusalem; patrols in ‘Anabta nr. Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, nr. Hebron and Qalqilya; issues military orders confiscating 45 d. of land along settler bypass road 60 nr. Hebron for construction of a military base nr. the separation wall. Jewish settlers fr. Suissa set fire to a Palestinian home; the IDF prevents firefighters fr. reaching the area. Israeli police arrest 5 senior Hamas mbrs. in East Jerusalem for illegally helping Change and Reform PC mbrs. conduct Hamas affairs in the city. (IMEMC, OCHA, NYT, WT, YA 7/6; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT, YA 7/7; HA, NYT, WP 7/8; PCHR 7/13)
7 JULY

As Operation Summer Rains continues, the IDF pushes deeper into populated areas of n. Gaza. During the day, the IDF engages in heavy clashes (including air strikes) with the AMB, Hamas around Bayt Lahiya, killing at least 7 Palestinians (mostly AMB mbrs. but including a 6-yr-old girl). Palestinians fire 13 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting an empty schoolyard and factory in Sederot, lightly injuring 3 Israelis; a 14th rocket lands inside Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. The Palestinian groups holding Shalit issue a statement confirming that he is in good condition, calling for negotiations to end the fighting and release him; Olmert rejects any bargaining. In the West Bank, the IDF surrounds, raids a Palestinian home in ‘Askar r.c., fatally shooting wanted AMB mbr. Tamir Kandil in an apparent assassination, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 5, fires on residential areas nr. Rachel’s Tomb in Bethlehem, causing no injuries; patrols in Qabatya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. Unknown gunmen kidnap, kill a PSF officer nr. Gaza City. A 12-yr.-old Palestinian wounded by IDF fire nr. Erez on 7/5 dies, as do 3 Palestinian militants wounded by IDF fire in Bayt Lahiya on 7/6. (HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/8; NYT, WT 7/9; PCHR 7/13; OCHA 7/18)

8 JULY

Before dawn, Israel withdraws troops fr. n. Gaza to just inside Israel’s border (saying its objectives there have been met, even though rocket fire fr. the area has been increasing; see 7/5), but declares that Operation Summer Rains is still ongoing and is not being scaled down. (Palestinians in Bayt Lahiya report at least 100 Palestinian homes heavily damaged or destroyed, 50 d. of agricultural land bulldozed since 7/3.) During the day, the IDF sends forces across the eastern Gaza border to search for roadside bombs and tunnels, engaging in heavy clashes with Palestinian gunmen nr. Qarni crossing, leaving 4 Palestinians dead (including at least 2 gunmen, 1 journalist), around 20 injured before pulling back across the Qarni crossing into the industrial estate late in the evening (barring the WFP fr. reaching warehouses there where it holds emergency food stocks for 160,000 Palestinians in the area). The IDF also makes air strikes on n. Gaza, destroying a main bridge and hitting a home outside Gaza City, killing a Palestinian woman, 2 children, a 4th Palestinian nearby, and wounding 4 children inside the home; continues shelling and bulldozing areas around Rafah. UNRWA opens 2 schools in Rafah to house around 1,000 Palestinians who have heeded IDF calls to evacuate their homes nr. closed military zones around Dahaniyya airport. A Palestinian is killed in his Khan Yunis house when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely, also injuring 5 family mbrs. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Jenin r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus, Ramallah. A Palestinian militant dies of injuries received earlier in Bayt Lahiya. In Israel, dual Israeli-Canadian citizen Ghazi Falah, a geography prof. at University of Akron in Ohio, is arrested on charges of spying for Hizballah and Iran. (AP, PCHR, WP 7/8; NYT, WP, WT 7/9; NYT 7/10; PCHR 7/13; WT 7/27)

9 JULY

In Gaza, the IDF makes air strikes on a carload of Hamas mbrs. in Rafah (killing 1 Palestinian bystander, wounding 6 bystanders, 2 Hamas mbrs.), a carload of Palestinian gunmen in Gaza City (missing, wounding 5 bystanders), armed Palestinians nr. Qarni crossing (wounding 5 PA security officers nearby), an alleged Islamic Jihad weapons factory in Gaza City, a bridge and electricity transformer in Bayt Hanun, an Abu Rish Brigades training base in Khan Yunis; continues to shell areas of Gaza City, wounding 12 Palestinians; fires on residential areas of Rafah; allows the Nahal Oz pipeline to open for several hrs./day for the import of fuel. Meanwhile, the Gaza municipality runs out of fuel for its trucks requiring the halt to trash collection in Gaza City (still in effect as of 7/12), raising World Health Organization (WHO) concern regarding the spread of communicable diseases. Palestinians fire several rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting 1 home and lightly wounding 1 Israeli. Haniyeh calls for a mutual cease-fire, but Olmert rejects it, saying that Operation Summer Rains is not over and that “we will operate, enter, and pull out [of Gaza] as needed.” Cmdr. of Israel’s southern region Maj. Gen. Yoav Galant says Israel is “prepared to continue the operation a month, two months, and, if need be, even more.” In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Nablus; patrols in, fires on
residential areas of Qalqilya. (NYT 7/10; MEZ 7/11; PCHR 7/13)

10 JULY

The IDF conducts 4 air strikes on Palestinian militants in n. and s. Gaza, killing at least 7 Palestinians including 1 Hamas mbr., 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs., 1 other armed Palestinian, 3 Palestinian teenagers playing soccer in a field, wounding at least 9 (7 militants, 2 civilians); allows the Erez crossing to open for several hrs. for the import of food. In the West Bank, the IDF occupies a Palestinian home nr. Hebron as an observation post; patrols in Nablus, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 1; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm. A 15-mo.-old Palestinian dies of injuries received in the 6/21 IDF attack on Islamic Jihad mbrs. in Khan Yunis. (WP 7/10; IFM, MEZ, PCHR, NYT, WP 7/11; PCHR 7/13)

11 JULY

In Gaza, the IDF makes air strikes on an AMB car carrying rockets to a launch site nr. Bayt Hanun (the targets escape unharmed, 2 bystanders are wounded; a PA security of- ficer later sent to retrieve the deserted car is killed by IDF fire that also wounds 2 bystanders) and on a bridge in n. Gaza; allows the Erez crossing to open for several hrs. for the import of food, medical supplies. The International Comm. of the Red Cross (ICRC) reports that 3 Palestinians with medical problems stranded on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border, closed since 6/25, have died of heat stroke; that some 4,000 Palestinians, including 578 “urgent humanitarian cases” are now waiting on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border, closed since 6/28), allowing PA security forces to resume, and from Dahaniyya airport (held since 6/28), allowing PA security forces to enter the airport and the Rafah crossing and around 1,000 displaced Palestinians (see 7/8) to return to their homes. Palestinians try to fire rockets fr. Gaza toward Kissufim, but they fall short, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units into Dura, Nablus to conduct arrest raids. A Palestinian militant dies of injuries received during the 7/7 IDF air strikes on Bayt Lahiya. (BBC, HA, IMEMC, NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WP, WT 7/12; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/13; PCHR 7/20; NYT 7/21; B’Tselem 8/3)

Before dawn, Hizballah launches a cross-border attack on Israel, dubbed Operation True Promise, firing rockets across the Blue Line into n. Israel as a diversion; sending fighters in to n. Israel to attack an IDF patrol bwn. Zarit and Shetula, capturing 2 IDF soldiers, killing 3 soldiers, wounding 2. The IDF sends troops into Lebanon to search for the missing soldiers, where an IDF tank hits a mine, killing 4 IDF soldiers in an attempt to assassinate chief Hamas bomb-maker Muhammad Dayif, 4 times previously the target of Israeli assassination since 2000, wounding Dayif, killing senior Hamas mbr. Nabil al-Salima, his wife and 7 children, wounding Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades n. Gaza cmdr. Ahmad al-Gander and at least 33 bystanders, seriously damaging 15 surrounding homes. At the same time, the IDF also expands Operation Summer Rains with a major incursion into central Gaza, sending 10s of tanks, APCs, armored bulldozers across the Kissufim crossing under helicopter and drone escort and moving troops north fr. positions nr. Abasan, cutting the Strip in half, ordering PA security forces to leave the area, shelling and bulldozing surrounding areas. During the day, the IDF reportedly kills at least 22 other Palestinians and wounds at least 14 in major gun battles nr. Dayr al-Balah in central Gaza and in air and artillery strikes around Dayr al-Balah and Khan Yunis; the PRC’s Salah al-Din Brigades Khan Yunis leader Hisham Abu Nusayra, a PA policeman are killed in separate air strikes in Khan Yunis and a police station in al-Qarara is hit. The IDF also bulldozes 65 d. of agricultural land, partially demolishes 8 Palestinian homes and a car, and occupies 10 Palestinian homes as military posts in Dayr al-Balah; withdraws fr. the Qarni industrial estate (held since 7/8), allowing humanitarian and commercial imports to resume, and from Dahaniyya airport (held since 6/28), allowing PA security forces to enter the airport and the Rafah crossing and around 1,000 displaced Palestinians (see 7/8) to return to their homes. Palestinians try to fire rockets fr. Gaza toward Kissufim, but they fall short, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units into Dura, Nablus to conduct arrest raids. A Palestinian militant dies of injuries received during the 7/7 IDF air strikes on Bayt Lahiya. (BBC, HA, IMEMC, NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WP, WT 7/12; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/13; PCHR 7/20; NYT 7/21; B’Tselem 8/3)
and marking Israel’s 1st ground incursion into Lebanon since its 5/00 withdrawal. (An 8th IDF soldier is killed, 2 others are wounded in Lebanon late in the evening as they try to recover the remains of the 4 tank occupants.) The IDF also launches air strikes and directs heavy artillery, tank fire on some 40 Hizballah positions, roads, bridges, power stations in s. Lebanon, killing at least 2 Lebanese civilians, 1 Lebanese soldier, wounding at least 10. The Lebanese government requests that UNIFIL broker a cease-fire, but Israel says a cease-fire would be contingent upon return of the captured soldiers. Hizballah leader Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah says the group plans to hold the 2 soldiers for the release of 3–4 Lebanese held by Israel. During the day, IDF Chief of Staff Dan Halutz calls up a reserve infantry division for deployment to the n. Israel border and sends the Israeli navy into Lebanese waters, threatening a massive invasion of Lebanon; makes air strikes on a Palestinian guerrilla base s. of Beirut. (BBC, HA, IFM 7/12; HA, IFM, NYT, WP, WT 7/13; UNIS 7/14) (see Quarterly Update for details)

13 JULY

Overnight, the IDF makes air strikes destroying the PA FMin. building in Gaza City, wounding 13 bystanders (including 6 children); makes an air strike on Khan Yunis, killing 1 Islamic Jihad mbr., wounding a 2d; sends troops into al-Qarara, firing on residential and agricultural areas. During the day in Gaza, the IDF continues to shell n. Gaza, wounding at least 2 Palestinians; fires on residential areas nr. Sufa crossing, wounding a Palestinian child outside his home. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit; uproots 50 Palestinian trees nr. the separation wall in Bayt Jala for “security reasons.” A Palestinian teenager wounded in a 7/10 IDF air strike on Bayt Hanun dies. (NYT, WP 7/13; PCHR 7/20)

Officially launching Operation Just Reward (ca. 7/18 renamed Operation Change of Direction), the IDF makes predawn air strikes on s. Lebanon that kill at least 44 Lebanese civilians, wound around 100. Hizballah responds by firing some 60 Katyusha rockets on n. Israel, hitting a home in Nahariya (killing 1 Israeli woman, wounding 29), wounding 11 in Safad, and hitting the northern towns of Carmiel, Majdal Qrum, Zarit. During the day, the IDF intensifies its attacks on Lebanon to cut Hizballah supply lines and prevent internal transportation of weapons and fighters, imposing a naval blockade on Lebanese ports north to Beirut and making air strikes on Beirut International Airport, the Lebanese army’s main Rayak air base nr. the Syrian border, a small military airport in Qulayyat in n. Lebanon, Hizballah’s al-Manar TV station outside Beirut (wounding 6) and a relay tower in Baalbek (killing 1 Lebanese, wounding 4), a major oil depot in Jiyeh, numerous roads and bridges. After Israel warns Lebanese to evacuate Hizballah-dominated areas of s. Beirut, Hizballah threatens to strike Haifa if Beirut is targeted. When the IDF conducts overflights of Beirut shortly afterward, Hizballah fires 2 Katyushas at Haifa, damaging a hotel but causing no injuries. Israeli-Hizballah exchanges continue late into the evening, with Hizballah firing around 90 rockets and mortars into Israel, hitting some 20 northern towns and killing a 2d Israeli, while Israel attacks 100s of targets across Lebanon (mostly in the south, but including hitting Beirut airport a 2d time, with artillery reportedly fired at a rate of 1 shell per minute throughout the day), killing at least another 10 Lebanese. Total casualties for the day are estimated at 54 Lebanese (overwhelmingly civilians) killed and 103 wounded, and 2 Israelis killed and 90 injured (1 seriously, two-thirds being treated for shock). Israel also warns UNIFIL that the IDF will target anyone moving nr. the Blue Line, including UNIFIL observers, prompting UNIFIL to confine its 2,500 troops (who are either unarmed or lightly armed for personal defense only) to barracks. (AP, HA, MSNBC, National Public Radio, REU 7/13; NYT, UNIS, WP, WT 7/14)
50 Palestinian militants temporarily take over the Rafah crossing, allowing as many as half of the 4,000 Palestinian stranded on the Egyptian side to enter Gaza; Egyptian border police block Palestinians who try to cross fr. Gaza into Egypt. Palestinians fire at least 7 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage in 1 incident but no injuries. The IDF conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. A Palestinian dies of injuries received during the IDF's 7/6 failed assassination attempt on Zubaydi and Sadi. (NYT, WP 7/15; NYT 7/16; PCHR 7/20)

The IDF escalates its attacks on Lebanon, completing the naval blockade of the coast; making air strikes on Hizballah offices, homes of Hizballah leaders and a senior Hamas official; hitting scores of civilian infrastructure targets, particularly in pro-Hizballah neighborhoods in s. Beirut and s. Lebanon, and roads and bridges in e. and n. Lebanon (including destroying the last bridge on the Beirut-Damascus highway), also destroying numerous gas stations, fuel depots (including hitting Jiyeh terminal for a 2d day, creating a major oil slick), a major power plant s. of the capital; shelling ports in Amshit, Batrun, Beirut, Juniyah, Sidon, Tripoli, and Tyre and hitting a radar installation in the new Manara lighthouse in Beirut to disable Lebanon's coast radar defenses. At least 16 Lebanese civilians are killed in an air strike on a civilian convoy fleeing Marwahin village in s. Lebanon after Israel warned residents to evacuate, bringing the estimated death toll since the start of the crisis to 92 Lebanese killed and at least 250 wounded, almost all of them civilians. Hizballah fires some 90 Katyushas at n. Israel during the day, hitting Tiberias for the 1st time, as well as Carmiel and Nahariya, lightly injuring at least 11 Israelis. Italy begins evacuating its citizens fr. Lebanon; Britain, France, the U.S. say they have plans to do the same. (HA, NYT, WP, WT 7/16; NYT 7/29; WP 8/1; NYT 8/5)

16 JULY

The IDF sends tanks, troops back into n. Gaza before dawn, firing missiles at and exchanging gunfire with Palestinian militants, killing at least 3 Hamas mbrs., 2 PRC mbrs., wounding at least 30 persons (including 1 Japanese and 1 Palestinian journalist, 2 paramedics) nr. Bayt Hanun and conducting arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Hanun; continues to shell n. Gaza, areas nr. Rafah (killing a 59-yr.-old Palestinian woman); makes a predawn air strike on PA FMin. offices in Gaza City, wounding 3 Palestinians; makes a 2d air strike on the FMin. complex late in the evening, destroying it, wounding 12 bystanders, damaging several nearby office buildings.
homes; fires missiles fr. helicopters at the ESF compound in Jabaliya, damaging it. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem and in and around Hebron (also searching and confiscating documents fr. the Islamic Society for Orphans), Nablus; begins work on a new segment of the separation wall southwest of Hebron. The IDF also detains for several hrs. al-Jazeera satellite TV’s Jerusalem bureau chief for questioning regarding violating Israeli military censorship rules. Jewish settlers fr. Tal Rumayda attack Palestinians, international peace activists in Hebron. Unidentified gunmen fatally shoot a PA security officer in Gaza. (AP, IMEMC, NYT 7/16; AP, NYT, WP, WT 7/17; OCHA, PCHR 7/18; OCHA 7/19; PCHR 7/20)

Overnight, the IDF launches heavy missile barrages and air strikes on s. Beirut suburbs (leveling wide swaths around the Hizballah headquarters) and s. Lebanon, hitting a major power station. In response, Hizballah fires some 20 rockets on Haifa, killing 8 Israelis and wounding 7 at a rail yard, hitting the city’s main oil refinery and gas depot, and a busy downtown street at rush hour; the IDF says that 4 of the rockets fired were Iranian made Fajr missiles (which, if confirmed, would mark Hizballah’s 1st use of the weapons), but Hizballah says it fired only Raad-2 and Raad-3 missiles. The IDF strikes back during the day, ordering Lebanese to evacuate 7 villages in s. Lebanon; hitting at least 80 targets across Lebanon, killing at least 45 Lebanese and wounding more than 100, including killing 20 in an air strike on a government civil defense building in Tyre (also wounding 50) and 8 dual Canadian citizens in a strike on a minibus in s. Lebanon; also killing a Ghanaian UNIFIL soldier and his family in an air strike on his house; leveling an apartment building in s. Beirut, knocking out electricity in many areas of the capital. (AP, HA, IFM 7/16; NYT, WP, WT 7/17)

17 JULY

In Gaza, the IDF expands ground operations in Bayt Hanun under artillery fire, occupying the town, firing on residential areas (killing 2 Palestinians), bulldozing land and homes, occupying houses as military bases, forcing some residents to flee; fires 2 artillery shells at a group of Palestinian children playing soccer in al-Bureij r.c., wounding a 14-yr.-old; fires on residential areas of Abasan, wounding 1 Palestinian. Palestinians fire at least 7 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 2 Israelis. In the West Bank, the IDF makes a raid on Nablus, where Palestinian militants throw an explosive device at troops, killing 1 IDF soldier, wounding 6; sends undercover units into Bethlehem to detain a wanted AMB mbr.; conducts late-night arrest raids nr. Nablus, Qalqilya. For a 2d day (see 7/16), the IDF detains al-Jazeera satellite TV’s Jerusalem bureau chief for questioning regarding violating Israeli military censorship rules. (AP 7/17; WP 7/18; PCHR 7/20)

The IDF intensifies attacks on e. and n. Lebanon, hitting Lebanese army barracks in Tripoli and army bases in Baalbek (killing 9 Lebanese soldiers), homes of Hizballah officials in the east; conducting heavy bombing of s. Beirut to destroy underground bunkers where Nasrallah and Hizballah’s senior leadership may be hiding; hitting fuel depots at the Beirut airport for a 2d time. In total, at least 38 Lebanese (mostly civilians) are killed during the day, including 12 civilians killed when the IDF targets a minibus in s. Lebanon. Hizballah responds by firing at least 30 rockets on n. Israel, including hitting Haifa with 3 rockets, shearing the front of an apartment building, wounding 6 Israelis. Britain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine, the U.S. begin evacuating their nationals. (NYT, WP 7/17; NYT, WP, WT 7/18)

18 JULY

The IDF withdraws troops fr. n. Gaza, leaving 60-130 Palestinian homes and a UNRWA clinic completely destroyed or uninhabitable; sends troops into al-Shuka village nr. Rafah, cutting electricity, bulldozing large areas of agricultural land, forcing 97 families (703 Palestinians) to flee their homes (UNRWA sets up 3 tent shelters in Jabaliya r.c. to house them); fires across the border into residential areas of Nussayrat r.c., wounding 1 Palestinian; shells and fires missiles fr. helicopters at areas in and around Abasan and nr. Khan Yunis; allows EU monitors to reopen the Rafah crossing for entry to Gaza; resumes shelling of n. Gaza late in the evening. Palestinians fire 2 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units into Bethlehem, raiding an apartment building, checking residents’ IDs, detaining 1 Palestinian; raids, vandalizes an UNRWA office and a youth center.
in Aida r.c.; raids the Ramallah Governate offices and the nearby office of the Palestine News Agency (WAFA), vandalizing them, detaining 5 Palestinians, including 2 PA police officers; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin. Unidentified gunmen fire on the home of a senior PFLP-GC official, killing 1 bodyguard, wounding 2. (OCHA 7/18; NYT 7/19; PCHR 7/20; OCHA 7/27)

The IDF strikes at least 110 targets across Lebanon, hitting a Lebanese army base (killing 11 soldiers, wounding 35), a home in S. Lebanon (killing 9 Lebanese civilians), targets in Baalbek; targets trucks in what is seen as a new campaign aimed at preventing Hizballah from relocating rockets, though most trucks hit are civilian ones bearing essential goods to Lebanese towns, including destroying a convoy in the Biqa’ Valley carrying medical supplies fr. the UAE; continuing to destroy roads and bridges. At least 20 Lebanese are killed during the day. The IDF confirms that small special forces teams have been conducting “pinpoint operations” in S. Lebanon, searching for arms caches and tunnels, withdrawing quickly; today some teams clash with Hizballah members, reportedly leaving 2 IDF soldiers dead, 3 injured. Hizballah fires up to 130 rockets at Israel, killing 1 Israeli, wounding around 20 in Nahariya, also hitting Haifa, Kiryat Shmona, Safad, Tiberias. The UN estimates that 500,000 Lebanese (out of a population of 4 million) have fled their homes to escape the violence. Lebanese begin to report shortages and rising costs of essential items, such as food and gas; begin withdrawing cash from banks and converting money into dollars in preparation for long-term deflation and economic hardship. (AP 7/18; AP, REU 7/19; NYT, WP, WT 7/19)

19 JULY

Overnight, the IDF sends troops back into central Gaza, engaging in heavy clashes with armed Palestinians in al-Maghazi r.c. that last throughout the day, occupying houses as sniper posts, cutting electricity to central Gaza, conducting air and artillery strikes, leaving 5 Hamas mbrs., 4 Palestinian bystanders dead and 5 IDF soldiers, 93 Palestinians wounded (mostly militants, most with shrapnel fr. tank fire; also including 20 children). The IDF also continues to shell N. Gaza fr. land and sea. In the West Bank, the IDF sends around 50 armored vehicles into Nablus in a major raid allegedly to search for Palestinian militants “activated by Hizballah” to stage attacks on Israel, laying siege to the Nablus governate building, the government compound (mostly destroyed during Operation Defensive Shield in 2002), security force buildings, the central prison; forcing out and detaining around 150 Palestinians (many PA security officers); killing 3 armed AMB mbrs. and 2 bystanders (including a medic), wounding 33 (including 16 children, 2 Palestinian); demolishing the main PA security compound, at least 6 other PA buildings; occupying the Palestinian Red Crescent Society offices, preventing the movement of ambulances. The IDF also patrols in, fires on residential areas of Anabta nr. Tulkarm. (NYT, WP, WT 7/19; Guardian, ICRC press release, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/20; NYT 7/21; IFM, NYT 7/22; PCHR 7/27)

The IDF continues to escalate air and artillery strikes across Lebanon. At least 58 Lebanese (including at least 35 civilians) and 4 Israelis (2 soldiers, 2 civilians) are killed during the day. 3 security force buildings, the central prison; demolishing the main PA security compound, at least 6 other PA buildings; occupying the Palestinian Red Crescent Society offices, preventing the movement of ambulances. The IDF also patrols in, fires on residential areas of Anabta nr. Tulkarm. (NYT, WP, WT 7/19; Guardian, ICRC press release, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/20; NYT 7/21; IFM, NYT 7/22; PCHR 7/27)

Search for Palestinian militants “activated by Hizballah” to stage attacks on Israel, laying siege to the Nablus governate building, the government compound (mostly destroyed during Operation Defensive Shield in 2002), security force buildings, the central prison; forcing out and detaining around 150 Palestinians (many PA security officers); killing 3 armed AMB mbrs. and 2 bystanders (including a medic), wounding 33 (including 16 children, 2 Palestinian); demolishing the main PA security compound, at least 6 other PA buildings; occupying the Palestinian Red Crescent Society offices, preventing the movement of ambulances. The IDF also patrols in, fires on residential areas of Anabta nr. Tulkarm. (NYT, WP, WT 7/19; Guardian, ICRC press release, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/20; NYT 7/21; IFM, NYT 7/22; PCHR 7/27)

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20 JULY

In Gaza, the IDF continues operations in al-Maghazi r.c., engaging in heavy clashes with local gunmen, killing 4 armed Palestinians and 1 bystander, wounding at least 32 (in addition, 1 Palestinian child wounded in al-Maghazi on 7/19 dies of her injuries); drops leaflets across Gaza warning that “anyone who has . . . an arsenal, ammunition, or weapons in their house must destroy them or will face dangerous consequences.” The IDF also continues to shell n. and s. Gaza to prevent rocket fire; makes air strikes on 2 groups of Palestinians allegedly laying roadside bombs (no injuries are reported); fires warning shots fr. gunboats to keep Palestinian fishermen fr. going out to sea. Palestinians fire at least 1 rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly wounding 1 Israeli. In the West Bank, the IDF continues major operations in Nablus, surrounding the local PA headquarters where a number of wanted Palestinians have taken refuge since fighting began on 7/19; 15 give themselves up during the day, but 10 remain inside, as IDF tanks shell the building and bulldozers begin to demolish the structure, troops fire on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them (wounding 5). Also in Nablus, some 4,000 Palestinians demonstrate in support of Hizballah. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; clears Palestinian trees nr. Har Homa settlement. (NYT, WP 7/21; IFM 7/22; PCHR 7/27)

Israel warns Lebanese s. of the Litani River that they have 24 hrs. to evacuate to the north. The IDF increases pinpoint ground operations in s. Lebanon, engaging in fierce clashes with Hizballah, leaving at least 2 IDF soldiers, 2 Hizballah mbrs., dead and 6 IDF soldiers injured; sends tanks, bulldozers across the n. border to destroy tunnels, bunkers, posts used by Hizballah (Hizballah claims to destroy 2 tanks; the IDF does not comment); continues air and artillery strikes on 150 targets across Lebanon, including Baalbek, Hermel, and al-Khiyam (destroying the infamous jail there, formerly run by Israel’s proxy, the South Lebanon Army). Late in the evening, 2 IDF helicopters collide over n. Israel nr. the Lebanese border, killing at least 4 IDF soldiers. Hizballah fires some 40 rockets at n. Israel, hitting Carmiel, Kiryat Shimona, Safad, Tiberias; there are no reported injuries. Syria reports that more than 140,000 people have crossed over fr. Lebanon since the violence began. Some 10,000 foreigners are evacuated by sea fr. Beirut and Tyre (including some 2,250 Americans and many Southeast Asian laborers evacuated by the Indian navy); UNIFIL evacuates its post at Naqura. Lebanese report that the cost of basic goods has risen 500% in some areas. (BBC, UNIS, WP 7/20; AP, NYT, WP WT 7/21; WP 7/22)

21 JULY

Overnight, the IDF withdraws fr. al-Maghazi r.c., leaving a total of 207 d. of land, 4 Palestinian homes demolished, 9 other homes partially demolished. Also in Gaza, the IDF fires a tank shell at a home in Gaza City, alleging that a Hamass mbr. on the roof was preparing to fire an RPG, killing a handcapped Palestinian on the roof, 3 relatives inside, wounding 2; shells areas nr. Khan Yunis and the Sufa crossing in the south and in n. Gaza, wounding at least 6 Palestinian civilians. In the West Bank, the IDF withdraws troops fr. Nablus, ending a 3-day operation; before leaving, troops blow up the main government offices (killing a Palestinian bystander), fire on stone-throwing Palestinians youths, wounding 21. The IDF also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqiya. (WP 7/21; NYT, PCHR 7/22; PCHR 7/27; B’Tselem 8/3)

The IDF calls up 3 battalions (several 1,000) additional reserves, positions troops and armor on the n. Israel border in preparation for “limited” ground operations to “mop up” Hizballah strongholds and weapons sites, continues pinpoint special forces operations inside s. Lebanon, urges residents to evacuate n. of the Litani River immediately (see 7/20; local officials estimate that 70% of the southern population has left). The U.S. approves Israel’s request to expedite delivery of precision-guided missiles (including at least 25, possibly 100, 5,000-lb GBU-28 bunker busters) to maintain the intensity of IDF air strikes. IDF artillery hits a UN observation post in Zarit, s. Lebanon, causing extensive damage but no injuries; makes air strikes on the Beirut-Damascus highway and several bridges, targeting empty passenger busses returning fr. Syria after evacuating foreigners; continues air strikes on Baalbek (killing at least 5 Lebanese civilians, wounding 20) and on s. Lebanon. At least 12 Lebanese are killed during the day. Hizballah fires 35–50 rockets into n. Israel, 10 of them hitting Haifa (injuring 3 Israelis)
and others hitting Carmiel, Kiryat Shimona, Nahariya, Safad, Tiberias, and several n. Israeli villages. Hizballah acknowledges that 6 Hizballah mbrs. have been killed since 7/12, whereas Israel claims that around 100 have been killed. UN humanitarian relief coordinator Jan Egeland estimates that 500,000 Lebanese are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, but says that the UN cannot provide it without Israel, Lebanon guaranteeing safe corridors for movement of civilians and aid. Today, Israel allows 1 Greek ship carrying 22 tons of humanitarian goods to enter Beirut. (AP 7/21; NYT, WP, WT 7/22; NYT 8/11)

22 JULY

The IDF continues to shell n. Gaza, wounding at least 1 Palestinian civilian. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. A Palestinian militant wounded during the 7/19–20 IDF raid on al-Maghazi r.c. dies of his injuries. (PCHR 7/27)

The IDF continues its troop build-up on the n. Israel border, artillery strikes and heavy air raids across Lebanon, incursions by small special forces units into the south. In its 1st major ground operation, the IDF sends some 2,000 soldiers, a tank brigade, armor into Maroun al-Ras (a Hizballah stronghold, reportedly largely depopulated since fighting began) on the central s. Lebanese border; stating later that after heavy, close combat, it has taken control of the town and several surrounding villages; at least 3 Hizballah mbrs., as many as 7 IDF soldiers may have been killed, several tanks disabled. Meanwhile, the IDF continues to warn s. Lebanon residents to move northward; Sidon reports some 35,000 displaced Lebanese arriving in the city today; Tyre, the largest s. Lebanese town, reports that only around 5,000 of its 175,000 residents remain. Among the targets hit in IDF air strikes are TV and cell phone transmission towers n. of Beirut (killing at least 1 Lebanese); 2 ICRC ambulances nr. Qana, killing 1 patient and injuring 6 medics, 2 patients; Hizballah targets in Baalbek, s. Beirut, Hermel, Sidon, Tyre. At least 8 Lebanese are killed during the day. Hizballah fires some 130 rockets into n. Israel, wounding 10–20 Israelis (3 seriously); targets include Carmiel, Haifa, Kiryat Shimona, Nahariya, Safad. Israel allows some ships bearing humanitarian aid to enter Lebanese ports. (AFP 7/22; NYT, WP, WT 7/23; NYT 7/24; WP 7/25)

23 JULY

The IDF conducts air strikes on the home of a Hamas mbr. in Gaza City, causing severe damage; the IDF phoned the target’s cell phone and local PA police before the strike to warn them to evacuate the house. The IDF also sends troops, bulldozers into the Erez industrial zone, firing on residential areas inside Gaza, wounding at least 1 Palestinian civilian. Palestinians fire around 12 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; also fire on an IDF post at Erez crossing, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin. Just after dawn, 3 armed Jewish settlers break into a Palestinian home in Haris nr. Salfit, threaten residents; the IDF intervenes, stating that the Palestinians had “threatened the security of settlers.” The PA makes payments of $530 each to 165,000 civil servants who have not received salaries since 5/06. (NYT, WP, WT 7/24; OCHA, PCHR 7/27)

The IDF continues air strikes across Lebanon, hitting Hizballah leadership posts in Beirut, targets in Sidon and the eastern Biqa’ Valley, road traffic in s. Lebanon (including convoys of civilians heading north); ground troops in Maroun al-Ras move 2 mi deeper into Lebanon, engaging Hizballah mbrs. in Bint Jubayl. At least 8 Lebanese (including a press photographer) are killed and 45 wounded during the day. Hizballah fires nearly 100 rockets on n. Israel; hitting Haifa (killing 1 Israeli, 1 Israeli Palestinian; wounding 18). Israel says it has fired more than 20,000 artillery shells into Lebanon since 7/12. (NYT 7/23; NYT, WP, WT 7/24)

24 JULY

In Gaza, the IDF drops leaflets on and makes automated phone calls to residents in n. Gaza warning them to evacuate areas around rocket launch sites, buildings used by militants; shells Bayt Lahiya, killing 3 Palestinian civilians, wounding 11 others (the IDF says a shell may have misfired); repeatedly shells Bayt Hanun and perimeter, killing 3 Palestinian civilians, wounding 8; shells a shed on a farm nr. Gaza City, allegedly serving as a weapons depot. IDF troops stationed at the Dahaniya airport fire on residential areas of nearby al-Shuka, wounding 1 Palestinian woman outside her home. Palestinians fire 8 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late in the evening, the IDF conducts air strikes
In Gaza, the IDF shells areas nr. Khan Yunis, wounding 2 Palestinians and damaging an ambulance coming to their rescue; fires on a Palestinian family tendng their fields nr. the border fence with Israel e. of al-Qarara, killing a Palestinian teenager; bulldozes 7 d. of agricultural land nr. al-Maghazi r.c. Palestinians fire several rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units into al-Birche for a day-long operation, imposes a curfew, surrounds 2 apartment buildings, occupies neighboring homes as sniper and observation posts, orders all residents out for ID checks, then raids the build-

ing arresting a wanted Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron (firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 1), Nablus; bulldozes 10s of d. of agricultural land nr. Bethlehem for construction of the separation wall. To protest U.S. Secy. of State Condoleezza Rice’s mng. with Abbas today, Palestinians in Ramallah observe a general strike, 100s conduct a protest march (some waving Lebanese flags). A Jewish settler fr. Beit Ili nr. Bethlehem fires on a 47-
year-old Palestinian walking nearby, wounding him with a live bullet in the jaw. A Jewish settler fr. Tene Oranim in Hebron throws a grenade at Palestinian shepherds tending a flock nearby, wounding 1 Palestinian, killing 3 sheep. A Palestinian civilian injured during IDF operations in al-Maghazi r.c. on 7/19 dies. (NYT, WP, WT 7/26; PCHR 7/27)

The IDF conducts air and artillery strikes on a UNIFIL post in al-Khiyam, hitting the area 21 times (at least 11 of them air strikes), killing 4 UNIFIL mbrs., continuing the aerial assault while rescue efforts are underwa-

der (see Quarterly Update for details); continues air strikes in s. Beirut and across s. Lebanon, especially in Nabatiyya (where at least 6 Lebanese civilians are killed when 2 homes are hit by missiles), Tyre. Ground battles involving IDF tank and Hizballah antitank fire, fierce house-to-house combat supported by IDF artillery and helicopter fire continue in Bint Jubayl and Maroun al-Ras and are reported in Yaron to the west; by nightfall, the IDF claims to have secured control of Bint Jubayl, killed senior Hizballah cmdr. Abu Jaafir and 20–30 Hizballah mbrs., though there is no inde-
pendent confirmation; at least 3 IDF soldiers are wounded. Hizballah fires more than 90 rockets into n. Israel, killing an Israeli Druze in Maghrib, injuring 30 Israelis (mostly suffering fr. shock); other targets include Haifa, Ma’alot, Nahariyya, Safad, Tiberias. (NYT, WP, WT 7/26; NYT 7/27)

26 JULY

The IDF expands Operation Summer Rains overnight, sending 50 tanks, troops back into n. Gaza in and around Gaza City, engaging in intense clashes with and con-
ducting air strikes on Palestinian gunmen, leaving at least 7 Hamas mbrs., 5 Islamic Jihad mbrs., 9 civilians dead, at least 57 Palestinians wounded, bulldozing wide tracts of land. In at least 3 incidents in Jabaliya r.c., the IDF phones Hamas mbrs.
warning them to evacuate their houses, then conducts air strikes destroying the homes. The IDF also closes the Qarni crossing. Palestinians fire 13 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli in Sederot. In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Kafr Qadim nr. Qalqilya, surrounds a home, evacuates and checks residents, demolishes the home, arrests 1 Palestinian, injures 1; bars a Palestinian heart attack victim fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a Qalqilya hospital, allowing him to die; patrols, searches cars in Yatta nr. Hebron; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, and in al-Fara’a r.c. nr. Jenin, Nablus. In Rafah, a Palestinian is killed in an exchange of fire bwn. PA security forces, armed Palestinians. Israeli security sources reveal that Israeli-Canadian citizen Falah, arrested on 7/8 and held without access to a lawyer, was detained for photographing a military antenna nr. Ras al-Naqura, alleging that he was sent “to photograph and report where rockets have landed in Israel,” noting that he visited Beirut, Tehran within the last 2 yrs.; Falah, who was arrested before Hizballah’s 7/12 cross-border raid and the firing of rockets into Israel, said the photos were for exchange of fire btwn. UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon and Israel, where rockets have landed in Israel, “noting that he was sent “to photograph and report where rockets have landed in Israel.”

The IDF faces intense fighting in s. Lebanon, where some 100 Hizballah mbrs., ambush an elite IDF Golani Brigade unit in Bint Jubbil, pinning them down for 1 hr. under a heavy barrage of mortars, antitank rounds, RPGs, and small-arms fire before they could return fire, killing 8 IDF soldiers, wounding at least 22; the IDF estimates that it killed around 20 Hizballah mbrs. A 9th IDF soldier is killed, 5 are wounded by antitank fire in clashes nr. Maroun al-Ras. Meanwhile, the IDF continues air strikes nr. Beirut and in s. Lebanon, including hitting an Amal command center and the Hizballah headquarters in Tyre. In Anjar nr. the Syrian border, a truck carrying emergency food, medical supplies donated by the UAE (see 7/18) is hit, killing the Syrian driver. Hizballah fires around 150 rockets into Israel, striking Carmiel, Haifa, Jish, Safad, Tiberias. Israel allows 2 Jordanian military transports carrying humanitarian aid to land at Beirut airport, though it still will not provide safety guarantees for trucks transporting the supplies southward on the coastal highway or across the border fr. Syria, where relief goods for 20,000 people have been stockpiled. The UN moves 5 convoys of supplies (containing wheat, soap, diapers, water purification tablets, medical kits) to the south on 5 routes approved for one-time use by the IDF (NYT, WP, WT 7/27)

27 JULY

In Gaza, the IDF closes the Nahal Oz pipeline; shells areas nr. Gaza City, killing at least 1 Palestinian militant, 1 Palestinian farmer working in his field; shells areas nr. Bayt Hanun (killing 1 Palestinian child outside his home, wounding 5 Palestinians), in al-Shuka; makes air strikes destroying 3 houses nr. Bayt Lahiya (killing 1 Palestinian bystander), in Bayt Hanun, Khan Yunis (also destroying 2 adjacent homes). In Jerusalem, a Palestinian gunman fires on Israeli police, wounding 2 before being shot dead. In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units into Jenin r.c. in cars with Palestinian license plates, surrounds a home, opens fire (wounding a Palestinian bystander in an apartment building nearby), occupying several surrounding houses as sniper positions, evacuates and checks IDs of residents, arrests 1 Palestinian, fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 8 Palestinians (including 2 journalists covering the incident for al-Jazeera, Reuters); patrols in al-Birchen; begins construction of a new segment of the separation wall in Bayt Jala that will cut Palestinians off fr. 5,000 d. of agricultural land and cut off the access of Battir and Habban al-Nahalin villages to Bethlehem. The body of a Jewish settler fr. Yakir missing since early in the morning is found in a burnt-out vehicle nr. a West Bank Palestinian village; the AMB takes responsibility for kidnapping, killing him. In Israel, Israeli police free dual Israeli-Canadian citizen Falah after a Haifa District Court orders the police and/or Shin Bet to file formal charges against him or let him go (see 7/26). A Palestinian wounded during the 7/26 IDF raid on Kafr Qadim dies. A 2d Palestinian dies of injuries received during IDF operations in Nablus on 7/19. (OCHA 7/27; NYT 7/28; NYT 7/29; PCHR 8/3)

Israel’s security cabinet approves call-ups for up to 3 divisions of reservists (15,000–30,000 reserves) for the war on Lebanon. The IDF makes some 180 air and artillery strikes on targets across...
Lebanon, including hitting radio and TV relays in Amshit n. of Beirut, 3 trucks in the Biqa’ Valley carrying emergency food supplies to Beirut. Ground clashes continue in Bint Jubayl, 2 residential apartment buildings nr. an Amal headquarters in Tyre; a Lebanese army base in n. Lebanon; roads, buildings in s. Lebanon and the Biqa’ Valley, including al-Khiyam, Kafr, Nabatiyya, Sidon, Tuffah, Riyaq, Zahleh. The IDF broadcasts radio warnings to s. Lebanon residents that their villages would be “totally destroyed” if rockets are fired fr. them. Hizballah fires some 110 rockets into n. Israel, wounding 7 Israelis and hitting an empty factory in Haifa, also hitting sites in Carmiel, Nahariya Safad, Tiberias. (IFM 7/27; NYT, WP, WT 7/28)

28 JULY

The IDF withdraws troops fr. the outskirts of Gaza City, where residents find the bodies of another Hamas mbr. and a 13-yr.-old Palestinian killed during recent clashes, 9 Palestinian homes completely demolished, 16 partially destroyed, at least 80 d. of agricultural land razed; conducts an air strike destroying a shed nr. the Rafah border allegedly hiding a smugglers tunnel. Palestinians fire rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly wounding 2 Israelis. In the West Bank, the IDF sends troops into Azun nr. Qalqilya, fires on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. (NYT, WT 7/29; PCHR 8/3)

The IDF continues air and artillery strikes across Lebanon, including making about 70 air strikes on Baruk in the central Biqa’ valley, hitting a convoy of civilian vehicles evacuating Rmaysh in s. Lebanon, wounding a journalist. Ground fighting continues in Bint Jubayl, where the IDF claims at least 26 Hizballah mbrs. are killed; 6 IDF soldiers wounded. Hizballah for the 1st time fires 2 Khaybar-1 rockets (range up to 50 mi, payload up to 200 lb), striking Afula, 30 mi inside Israel, just n. of the West Bank; fires more than 100 rockets into n. Israel during the day, wounding 14 Israelis and hitting targets in Carmiel, Ma’a lot, Nahariya, Safad, Tiberias. (AP, ICRC press release 7/28; NYT, WP, WT 7/29)

29 JULY

In Gaza, the IDF sends troops back into s. Gaza to search for a reported tunnel on the Gaza-Egypt border, cuts power to Rafah, makes an air strike on a building in Gaza City that allegedly holds a weapons cache; makes air strikes destroying 2 Palestinian homes in n. Gaza after phoning residents (at least 1 of them an AMB mbr.) to warn them to evacuate, also destroying 1 home nearby; shells residential areas of n. Gaza without warning (hitting 4 Palestinian homes, injuring 3 Palestinians), al-Shuka (wounding 2 Palestinians); temporarily occupies the Erez industrial zone, withdrawing after nightfall; sends bulldozers into southeastern Khan Yunis to raze 100 d. of agricultural land. UNRWA reports that it is housing in its schools some 1,200 Palestinians who have fled n. Gaza to escape IDF shelling. In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units into Nablus to assassinate local Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Hani Uwayjain, a Palestinian civilian with him; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Qalqilya; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Jenin, wounding 1 Palestinian. A Palestinian civilian wounded by IDF fire in Gaza City on 7/27 dies. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/30; PCHR 8/3)

The IDF keeps up intensive air and artillery strikes across Lebanon, targeting the Beirut-Damascus highway (closing the Syrian border crossing for the 1st time since 7/12; though the road is used primarily by civilians trying to flee the country and aid workers bringing in humanitarian assistance, Israel claims it targeted the road to prevent arms smuggling), killing at least 6 Lebanese civilians, wounding 2 UNIFIL monitors. During the day, the IDF withdraws troops fr. Bint Jubayl, claiming to have destroyed Hizballah’s elaborate network of tunnels and storage areas, but continues air and artillery strikes and keeps troops in the area, saying they could be sent back in at any time. Hizballah fires at least 90 rockets into Israel. Israel allows military planes delivering aid fr. Egypt, Jordan, the UAE to land at Beirut airport; a warship fr. Turkey brings medical supplies into Beirut port; a U.S. naval catamaran brings blankets, tarps, medical kits; aid workers in Lebanon complain that it is still too dangerous to transport aid supplies, that the IDF still requires convoy-by-convoy approval to move the aid to hard-hit areas. (NYT, WP, WT 7/30)

30 JULY

The IDF reopens the Nahal Oz pipeline (closed 7/27), the Qarni crossing to imports only (closed 7/26; exports have been banned
since 6/25); makes an air strike destroying a Palestinian home nr. Bayt Lahiya after phoning the residents and warning them to leave; makes an air strike severely damaging the Gaza City home of a PA police officer, claiming he was storing weapons for militants (the officer was warned to evacuate; denies storing weapons); continues to shell residential areas of al-Shuka, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols, randomly checks IDs of residents in Qalqilya; conducts house searches in Bethlehem (targeting the home of a PA security officer), nr. Tulkarm. Some 5,000 Palestinians demonstrate outside the UN compound in Gaza City to protest the IDF’s attack on Qana, Lebanon, overnight (see below). A PSF officer is shot, wounded by unidentified armed Palestinians in Khan Yunis. A Palestinian wounded in the 7/19 IDF assault on al-Maghazi dies. (PCHR 8/3)

Overnight, the IDF drops 2,000-lb MK-84 guided missiles on a 3-story residential building in Qana in s. Lebanon killing at least 28 Lebanese (including 16 children), wounding 9, and leaving 11 missing and presumed dead (including 6 children; initial reports say 57 Lebanese are killed, including 37 children, and 8 are wounded but Lebanese government, hospital, independent reports downgradethe figuresby 8/5); the Israeli FM, Rice, issues a statement blaming Qana residents for ignoring IDF warnings to leave. U.S. Secy. of State Rice, in Israel to discuss a cease-fire, announces that she will return to Washington but succeeds in securing Israel’s agmt. to a 48-hr. partial suspension of air strikes on s. Lebanon, including a 24-hr. window for relief agencies to transport goods and civilians; Israel says it will observe the suspension until the IDF “detects an imminent launch” of Hizballah rockets, but ground operations in s. Lebanon, air and artillery strikes n. of the Litani would continue. During the day, the IDF launches new ground operations in southeastern Lebanon nr. Taybeh and n. of the Israeli town of Metula, reporting 8 IDF soldiers wounded, 3 Hizballah mbrs. killed; makes air and artillery strikes across Lebanon, including in Yarun (killing at least 5 Lebanese civilians); calls on UNIFIL to evacuate Aita al-Sha’b, Ramieh before sun-

31 JULY

The IDF shells areas of n. Gaza, killing a 16-yr.-old Palestinian, wounding a 4-yr.-old outside their homes; detains 2 unarmed Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel nr. al-Maghazi r.c. to find work. In the West Bank, the IDF bans Palestinians fr. entering Israel; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Tulkarm (searching Change and Reform offices and nearby Internet café, damaging computers; the Palestinian Media and Studies Center, confiscating computers, files; an Islamic women’s charity and sports club, vandalizing furniture, confiscating files). For a 2d day, a PSF officer is shot, wounded by unidentified armed Palestinians nr. Khan Yunis. (NYT 8/1; NYT 8/2; PCHR 8/3; OCHA 8/9)

Overnight, the 48-hour partial suspension of Israeli air strikes on s. Lebanon goes into effect (2:00 A.M. local time 7/31; 7:00 EM. ET 7/30). Within hrs., the IDF launches air strikes in support of ground troops in Taybeh, at a Lebanese army jeep traveling nr. Qasmiyya nr. of Tyre (based on false information that a senior Hizballah mbr. was in the car, killing 1 Lebanese soldier, wounding 3). The Israeli cabinet also approves plans to “expand and deepen” ground operations in s. Lebanon. With air strikes eased, Lebanese rescue workers begin combing bombed-out cars and destroyed buildings in villages in s. Lebanon, finding at least 49 bodies during the day, but relief agencies report that the IDF is still demanding that aid convoys coordinate their routes with the IDF on a case-by-case basis despite the 24-hr. window for humanitarian operations. The IDF also conducts some air strikes nr. the Syrian border and on Bint Jubayl; continues ground operations in Aita al-Sha’b, Kafir Kila, Maroun al-Ras. Hizballah launches 3–4 mortars into Kiryat Shimona, but no rockets. The Lebanese government warns that the country has only a few days’ fuel supply remaining and once it runs out, provision of normal health care and relief aid will cease. (Israeli Prime Minister’s Office transcript 7/31; BBC 8/1; NYT, WP, WT 8/1)

1 AUGUST

The IDF sends troops back into s. Gaza nr. Dahaniyya airport allegedly to look for tunnels; makes air strikes on, shells n. Gaza, killing a 16-yr.-old Palestinian boy, a 24-yr.-old Palestinian woman, wounding 4 other bystanders in Bayt Hanun; makes
an air strike destroying the al-Bureij home of a Hamas mbr. (warned by cell phone in advance to evacuate), also damaging 4 nearby homes; shells the Gaza harbor fr. the sea, hitting 2 boats, an office, a car, and a cabin owned by alleged arms smuggler Abbas Bakr, causing no injuries. Palestinians fire 6 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging a home but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. A 13-yr.-old Palestinian girl dies of injuries received in the search in Hebron. A state Hizballah leader, resting at a hospital (where intelligence reports he is hiding), positions his soldiers in the area, landing troops by helicopter, raiding an air strike targeting Lebanese army bases in Sarba (killing 3 Lebanese soldiers) and nr. Sidon (killing 3 Lebanese soldiers). Hizballah fires 52 rockets, 43 mortars into Nahariya. (BBC 8/1; NYT, WP 8/2; OCHA 8/9; PCHR 8/10)

Overnight, the 48-hr. easing of Israeli air strikes in s. Lebanon passes. IDF steps up ground operations, clashing with Hizballah mbrs. in 11 towns across s. Lebanon concentrated within 2–4 mi. of the border, leaving 1 IDF soldier dead and 9 wounded, mostly in Aita al-Sha’b. The IDF also lands troops in Baalbek for a 2d day, where they clash with Hizballah, reportedly killing 10 Hizballah mbrs., and 25 Lebanese civilians, capturing 5 Hizballah mbrs. IDF air strikes across Lebanon also escalate, including targeting Lebanese army bases in Sarba (killing 1 Lebanese soldier) and nr. Sidon (killing 3 Lebanese soldiers). Hizballah fires 72 rockets into Israel, killing 1 Israeli civilian, wounding at least 33, hitting sites in Kibbutz Saar, Ma’alot, Nahariya; a Khaybar-1 rocket lands outside Jenin, 43 mi fr. the border, causing no damage or injuries. (AP 8/2; NYT, WP, WT 8/3)

3 AUGUST

Overnight, the IDF launches ground operations in al-Shuka, using helicopters, drones, and some 50 tanks, armored vehicles, bulldozers; seals off Dahaniyya airport, the eastern entrance to Rafah, the main north–south Gaza highway; makes heavy air and artillery strikes on residential areas throughout the day, with Palestinian militants retaliating with antitank and light weapons fire, leaving 2 Hamas mbrs., 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs., 1 PA security officer, 5 bystanders dead and more than 30 Palestinians wounded (including at least 8 militants, 18 civilians). Palestinians fire 4 rockets toward Israel, but all land inside Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya and in ‘Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, Balata r.c., Hebron, Nablus. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 8/3; NYT, WP 8/4; PCHR 8/10)

The IDF operates in 20 villages in s. Lebanon, most of them less than 2 mi. inside the border, engaging in intense clashes with Hizballah (particularly in Bint Jubayl, Maroun al-Ras, Marwaehin, Rajmin), with Hizballah killing 4 IDF soldiers, wounding 4, destroying at least 4 APCs in Aita al-Sha’b and Taybeh. The IDF also continues air strikes across Lebanon, including in s. Beirut (hitting houses of senior Hizballah and Hamas mbrs.), Blat, Nabatiyya, Rashaya,
4 AUGUST

The IDF continues operations al-Shuka, making air and artillery strikes on buildings allegedly housing Hamas and Islamic Jihad weapons caches, exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen, conducting house-to-house searches, prompting residents to flee, leaving 2 Palestinian civilians, 1 Palestinian militant dead, at least 1 Palestinian wounded. Late in the evening, the IDF expands operations deeper into Rafah, making air strikes on militant targets in heavily residential areas, killing 1 Islamic Jihad mbr., 2 other armed Palestinians, a Palestinian woman and her 2 children, wounded at least 3 Palestinians; also destroys the remaining parts of a PA security barracks. Also in Gaza, the IDF makes an air strike destroying a home in Shatti r.c. nr. Gaza City after warning residents to evacuate. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids in Tulkarm town; patrols in Tulkarm r.c.; conducts random ID checks in Hebron. The IDF also bars Palestinians under age 45 fr. attending Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. (NYT 8/4; WP 8/5; PCHR 8/10)

The IDF calls up more reservists (no details reported), moves additional artillery to the border with Lebanon; escalates air strikes on s. Beirut (killing at least 1 Lebanese soldier, wounding 2 soldiers, 4 civilians), hitting bridges and roads in Christian areas n. of the capital along the coast for the 1st time (killing a least 5 Lebanese civilians, wounding 19; hitting an 8-truck UN convoy, preventing the movement of other aid convoys south); also strikes targets in s. Lebanon (flattening 2 houses, leaving 50 Lebanese missing) as well as in Baalbek, Hermel, Qana (killing at least 28 farm workers, mostly Syrian Kurds) in the Biqa’ Valley. Ground operations in s. Lebanon continue, with especially intense fighting in Aita al-Sha'b. Markaba (where at least 3 IDF soldiers are killed and 1 tank is destroyed), Taybeh. Hizballah fires 195 rockets into n. Israel, hitting Bunaich, Carmiel, Hadera (50 mi. fr. the border, the deepest strike to date), Kiryat Shmona (hit by 60 missiles), Ma’alot, Migdal Hamek, Nahariya, Qunaytra, Safad, Shar Yishuv; killing 4 Israelis (including 3 Druze; 1 in Maghir, 2 in Majd al-Krum) wounding 8. (AP, NYT 8/4; NYT, WP, WT 8/5)

5 AUGUST

The IDF continues operations in Rafah and al-Shuka, firing on and shelling residential areas, conducting house-to-house searches, forcing some 400 Palestinian families to flee their homes, killing 1 Palestinian civilian, wounding at least 13 civilians. The IDF also shells areas around Bayt Hanun, wounding at least 2 Palestinians; fires across the border fr. Israel at Palestinian farmers working their land nr. al-Maghazi r.c., wounding 1. In the West Bank, the IDF arrests PA parliament speaker ‘Aziz Dwayk (Change and Reform) in his RAMallah home on charges of being a mbr. of a terrorist organization (Hamas); conducts random ID checks in Dahaysa r.c. (firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 2), Tubas; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Jenin town and r.c., Nablus; burns 30 d. of agricultural land brwn. the separation wall and the Green Line nr. Tulkarm, barring fire engines fr. reaching the scene. A Palestinian dies of injuries received in the 7/16 IDF air strike on the PA FMin. offices in Gaza City; (NYT, PCHR 8/5; NYT, WP, WT 8/6; NYT 8/7; PCHR 8/10)

Overnight, the IDF makes air strikes outside a Palestinian r.c. s. of Tyre, wounding 1 person, lands 2 naval commando units (reportedly wearing Lebanese army uniforms) nearby; raids an apartment building housing Hizballah mbrs. allegedly involved in long-range rocket attacks on Israel, clashing with Hizballah mbrs. for 3 hrs., killing 4 suspected Hizballah mbrs., 1 Lebanese soldier at a nearby checkpoint, 2 bystanders before withdrawing. During the day, the IDF continues air strikes, hitting 170 targets in s. Beirut, and n. of Hermel; drops leaflets over Sidon, warning residents to leave prior to imminent strikes there; continues ground operations in some 20 villages in s. Lebanon, leaving 2 IDF soldiers dead, at least 9 wounded in clashes in Aita al-Sha'b, Taybeh. Hizballah fires 160 rockets into n. Israel (140 of them in a 90 min. period in the evening), killing 3 Israeli Palestinians in Arab al-Aramshe, also hitting
targets in Haifa, Kiryat Shimona, Ma’alot, Nahariya, Safad, Shlomi, Tiberias, wounding a total of 54 Israelis. (NYT 8/5; NYT, WP, WT 8/6)

6 AUGUST

Overnight, the IDF pulls troops out of Rafah and al-Shuka and back into the Danuniya airport, ending a 3-day offensive; troops go back into al-Shuka briefly during the day to surround, evacuate, blow up a Palestinian home, also bulldozing 20 d. of surrounding agricultural land. Late in the evening, the IDF makes an air strike destroying a Palestinian home nr. Bayt Lahiya, damaging 2 others after warning residents by phone to evacuate. In the West Bank, the IDF sends troops into Silat al-Harithiyiya nr. Jenin, occupies a house as a sniper post, shoots and assassinates wanted Islamic Jihad mbr. Sami al-Imari; arrests, searches the Ramallah home of Change and Reform PC mbr. Fadl Hamdan; conducts arrest raids, house searches and fires on residential areas of Shayukh nr. Hebron (see 8/5). In Ramallah, 7 Palestinians working in the PC building are taken to the hospital with breathing difficulties after opening a suspicious letter addressed to PM Haniyeh; the building is evacuated. The PA head of military intelligence for n. Gaza dies of injuries received in an ambush in Jabaliya r.c. on 8/6; no group claims responsibility. (AP 8/7; WP 8/8; OCHA 8/9; PCHR 8/10)

Overnight, the IDF destroys the last remaining bridge over the Litani River linking n. and s. Lebanon; this cuts off access to Tyre. The IDF announces a 10:00 P.M. curfew on Tyre, saying that any movement there after dark and any vehicular traffic s. of the Litani River at any time will henceforth be considered Hizballah activity and a legitimate target. As UN mbrs. narrow differences on a cease-fire res. (see Quarterly Update), Olmert’s security cabinet discusses speeding up the IDF’s advance to the Litani River, escalating attacks on Lebanon’s civilian infrastructure. During the day, the IDF continues heavy air, artillery strikes on some 150 targets across Lebanon, hitting s. Beirut (including 47 killed, 70 wounded in the Christian-Shi’i suburb of al-Shiyah, where Shi’a are pro-Amal), the Biqa’ Valley (including Baalbek, Masnaa), and in around Nabatiyya (including 7 civilians killed in air strikes on cars traveling in Qasmiyya; 15 killed, 20 wounded in an air strike on an apartment building in Ghaziyya), and across s. Lebanon (including demolishing a 4-building apartment complex in Tyre), killing at least 69 Lebanese civilians; continues ground operations across s. Lebanon that leave 3 IDF soldiers dead, 7 wounded in Bint Jubayl and include heavy fighting in Hula (the IDF claims to kill at least 15 Hizballah mbrs.); downs an unmanned Hizballah drone off the s. Lebanon coast. Hizballah

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In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units into Azun in a car with Palestinian license plates, surrounds a home, arrests 1 PSF mbr. who surrenders; conducts random ID checks in, fires on residential areas of Kafr Dan nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and Nablus, in Dahaysha r.c., nr. Bethlehem, Hebron; burns 70 d. of agricultural land bwn. the separation wall and the Green Line nr. Tulkarm (see 8/5). In Ramallah, 7 Palestinians working in the PC building are taken to the hospital with breathing difficulties after opening a suspicious letter addressed to PM Haniyeh; the building is evacuated. The PA head of military intelligence for n. Gaza dies of injuries received in an ambush in Jabaliya r.c. on 8/6; no group claims responsibility. (AP 8/7; WP 8/8; OCHA 8/9; PCHR 8/10)
fires 130 rockets into n. Israel, injuring 10 Israelis, hitting targets in Acre, Carmiel, Kiryat Shmona (70 rockets), Ma'alot, Nahariya, Safad. The ICRC says that the IDF has barred humanitarian aid missions to the south for 3 days. (BBC, NYT, WP 8/7; BBC, NYT, WP WT 8/8; WP, WT 8/9; WP 8/10)

8 AUGUST

The IDF closes the Qarni crossing, Nahal Oz pipeline for the day; fires across the Israeli border at a group of children in a bedouin village nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c.; Hebron, Jenin, (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 5); patrols in Tubas, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 3. (PCHR 8/10)

Israel announces that it will evacuate to s. Israel within 24 hrs. some 15,000 Israelis from the north who cannot afford to leave on their own, suggesting that the IDF intends a major escalation against Lebanon. In Lebanon, the IDF continues air and artillery strikes, hitting targets in s. Beirut, s. Lebanon (including killing 13 Lebanese in Ghaziyya s. of Sidon), the Biqa' Valley. Ground offensives also continue in s. Lebanon, with heavy clashes reported in Aytrun, Bint Jubayl (where the IDF claims to have killed 30 Hizballah mbrs.), Dibil (where 1 IDF soldier is killed), Labuna (where 2 IDF soldiers are killed); another 2 IDF soldiers are killed elsewhere and 23 wounded. Hizballah fires 160 rockets into n. Israel, hitting Acre, Fayoum, Ma'alot, Nahariya, Safad, Tiberias. The WHO warns that if within 5 days Israel does not provide safety guarantees for oil tankers bringing fuel shipments to Lebanon (see 8/1), 60% of hospitals in Lebanon will "simply cease to function." (BBC, Marketplace 8/8; BBC, HA, NYT, WP WT 8/9)

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In Gaza, the IDF closes the Nahal Oz pipeline. Qarni crossing for the day; makes an air strike on a group of PRC mbrs. nr. of Gaza City, killing 2 PRC mbrs., a 3-yr.-old girl in a house nearby, wounding 2 PRC mbrs.; makes air strikes destroying the home of an Islamic Jihad mbr. in Bayt Hanun, a 2d home elsewhere in Gaza (warning residents to leave beforehand). A Palestinian is killed in Jabaliya r.c. when he accidentally detonates unexploded IDF ordnance. In the West Bank, the IDF also makes air strikes on a house in Jenin r.c., assassinating Islamic Jihad mbrs. Amjad al-'Ajam, Muhammad Atik, wounding 12 bystanders (including 7 children); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and Jenin, in Nablus, nr. Tulkarm (targeting PA security force mbrs.). (BBC, REU 8/9; PCHR 8/10; OCHA 8/16; PCHR 8/17)

The Israeli security cabinet approves plans to expand ground operations in s. Lebanon, speed IDF deployment to the Litani River. The IDF immediately begins reinforcing troops on the n. Israel border (anticipating a build-up of as many as 5,000 troops) and moves an additional 1,000 troops into s. Lebanon. The IDF continues air, naval, and artillery strikes across Lebanon, shelling 'Ayn al-Hilwa r.c. (allegedly targeting the home of a Hizballah mbr., killing at least 2 persons, wounding 5), making an air strike on an apartment in Mashghara in the Biqa' Valley just n. of the Litani (killing a Hizballah official, 8 family mbrs.), hitting targets in s. Beirut. Ground operations also continue in s. Lebanon, with heavy clashes reported in Aita al-Sha'b (4 IDF soldiers killed), Bint Jubayl, Dibil (9 IDF soldiers killed), Labuna, Jibbayn, Marja' uyun (1 IDF soldier killed), Qantara, Taybeh, resulting in Israel's highest daily toll to date, with 15 IDF soldiers dead and 38 wounded; the IDF claims to have killed 40 Hizballah mbrs., Hizballah fires some 170 rockets into n. Israel, hitting targets in Acre, Kiryat Shmona, Ma'alot, Safad. (BBC, HA, IFM, NYT, WP 8/9; NYT, WP WT 8/10)

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In Gaza, the IDF opens Rafah crossing for departures only; opens Qarni crossing for imports only; makes late-night air strikes destroying a store, house in Jabaliya r.c. (warning the residents in advance to leave), damaging 3 nearby homes. In the West Bank, the IDF sends undercover units into Tulkarm in a car with Palestinian license plates, surrounds the home of a wanted Hamas mbr., fires on the home, arrests the wanted man when he surrenders; sends troops into Ramallah, occupying offices in the PA Public Works Min. as an observation post, surrounding an apartment building, ordering residents to evacuate, arresting 3 Palestinians, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 1; conducts
arrest raids, house searches in Aqbat Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho; issues military orders confiscating 8 d. of Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya for the separation wall. (OCHA 8/16; PCHR 8/17)

The IDF drops leaflets on Beirut warning residents of the capital to expect escalated bombing whose “painful and severe results will not be limited” to Hizballah targets, urging residents of 3 neighborhoods (Bijr al-Barajneh, Hay Sullum, al-Shiyah) to evacuate immediately (the areas are vacant by the end of the day, with the government bussing residents without transportation to Juniyah); drops leaflets on n. Lebanon, warning truck drivers to stay off roads to Syria. Meanwhile, Israel asks the U.S. to speed delivery of M-26 artillery shells (short-range antipersonnel rockets armed with cluster munitions) along with other unspecified weapons for use against Hizballah. The IDF continues air and artillery strikes across Lebanon, including firing missiles at an unused radio tower in downtown Beirut; targeting traffic on roads nr. Tyre, destroying roads in the Biqa’ Valley, killing at least 2 Lebanese. Ground operations continue in s. Lebanon, reportedly focusing on areas stretching fr. Marja’uyun to al-Khiyam (with the IDF claiming to have taken control of Marja’uyun) and fr. Aita al-Sha’b to Bint Jubayl, leaving at least 1 Israeli soldier dead, 2 wounded nr. Qlei’a. Hizballah fires at least 140 rockets into n. Israel, injuring 5 Israelis and wounding 36. Ground operations continue in Labuna in the east, Aita al-Sha’b in central s. Lebanon, and Khiyam, Markaba, Qantara, Qlei’a further to the northeast. Hizballah fires 124 rockets into n. Israel, injuring 5 Israelis and targeting sites in Acre, Carmiel, Ma’alot, Nahariya, Safad, Shlomi. (AP, WP 8/11; NYT, WP, WT 8/12; NYT, WP 8/13; WP 8/24)

Late in the evening, the UN Security Council unanimously passes Res. 1701, calling for Israel and Hizballah to halt violence in place as of 8:00 A.M. on 8/14 local time (1:00 A.M. ET), demanding that Hizballah cease all attacks and that Israel stop offensive operations (allowing “defensive” responses if they perceive a threat). (IFM, NYT, WP, WT 8/12; NYT 8/14; NYT 8/15) (see Quarterly Update for details)

11 AUGUST

IDF gunboats off the Gaza coast shell the fmr. settlement areas of Ganei Tal, Netzer Hazani in s. Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and in Abu Dis, Hebron. The IDF also bars Palestinians under age 40 fr. Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. (OCHA 8/16; PCHR 8/17)

In the afternoon, after seeing a draft UN res. on halting violence that he says he cannot accept, Olmert authorizes the IDF to expand ground operations in s. Lebanon. The IDF quickly begins moving additional troops, armor into s. Lebanon, while troops already in Lebanon prepare to move toward the Litani. During the day, the IDF continues air and artillery strikes, hitting targets in s. Beirut, areas of n. Lebanon (including Abu Diya, Akkar), s. of Sidon, and in the Biqa’ Valley (including strafing some 1,300 cars evacuating some 3,000 residents of Marja’uyun, occupied by the IDF on 8/10, who chose to follow a convoy of 350 UNIFIL and Lebanese army troops evacuating the area in coordination with the IDF. 6 Lebanese civilians, 1 Lebanese soldier are killed and 36 are wounded). Ground operations continue in Labuna in the east, Aita al-Sha’b in central s. Lebanon, and Khiyam, Markaba, Qantara, Qlei’a further to the northeast. Hizballah fires 124 rockets into n. Israel, injuring 5 Israelis and targeting sites in Acre, Carmiel, Ma’alot, Nahariya, Safad, Shlomi. (AP, WP 8/11; NYT, WP, WT 8/12; NYT, WP 8/13; WP 8/24)

12 AUGUST

In Gaza, IDF troops occupy the Dahaniiya airport, seal the Rafah crossing (reopened on 8/10), raze large areas of agricultural land, destroy several greenhouses and sites used by the PA security forces, blow up what it says is a smuggler’s tunnel. In the West Bank, the IDF raids 2 hospitals in Hebron, conducts random ID checks on the streets in search of wanted Palestinians, but makes no arrests; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Azun, Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., nr. Bethlehem. Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba attack Palestinian homes in Hebron. Unidentified gunmen shoot, wound a PA General Intelligence officer in Gaza City. (OCHA 8/16; PCHR 8/17)

Hizballah, the Lebanese government endorse UN Res. 1701, Hizballah says it will maintain its “natural right to resist” in keeping with international law as long as IDF troops “are practicing an occupation and acts of aggression” inside Lebanon. Meanwhile, the IDF continues heavy air and artillery strikes across Lebanon, mostly targeting infrastructure and roads, including destroying electricity plants nr. Sidon, a Lebanese army base in the Biqa’ Valley, 2 homes nr. Bint Jubayl (killing at least 15...
stations), Ali al-Nahri in the Biqa' Valley, Tiri focusing on areas around Tyre (targeting gas 50 villages and towns across s. Lebanon, including 8 apartment buildings); also hits (leveling an area of several 100 sq. yds., artillery strikes, particularly on s. Beirut IDF intensify attacks. The 8/14 truce, both Lebanese army or UNIFIL. In anticipation of destroy Hizballah assets in areas it controls warn that the IDF will continue to officials forces that we will not retaliate, " and situation in which Hizballah fires at [Israeli] 1 abstention) UN Res. 1701, but separately (PCHR 8/17) collaborator; no group takes responsibility. whom they accuse of being a r.c., Hebron for a 2d day. Nr. Jenin ish settlers facilities, holding workers for several hrs.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bal- ata r.c., Nablus and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Jewish settlers fr. Kiryat Arba attack Palestinian homes in Hebron for a 2d day. Nr. Jenin r.c., Palestinian gunmen fatally shoot a Palestinian whom they accuse of being a collaborator; no group takes responsibility. (PCHR 8/17) The Israeli cabinet accepts (24-0, with 1 abstention) UN Res. 1701, but separately Israeli DM Peretz warns that “there is no situation in which Hizballah fires at [Israeli] forces that we will not retaliate,” and Israeli officials warn that the IDF will continue to destroy Hizballah assets in areas it controls until those areas are handed over to the Lebanese army or UNIFIL. In anticipation of the 8/14 truce, both Israel and Hizballah intensify attacks. The IDF escalates air and artillery strikes, particularly on s. Beirut (leveling an area of several 100 sq. yds., including 8 apartment buildings); also hits 50 villages and towns across s. Lebanon, focusing on areas around Tyre (targeting gas stations), Ali al-Nahri in the Biqa' Valley, Tiri in s. Lebanon; expands ground offensives in an attempt to take control of as much land as possible by the truce deadline, engaging in major clashes outside Tyre, in Aita al- Sha'b, Bint Jubbayl, and Rashaf in central s. Lebanon, and in Dayr Sirin, al-Ghanduriyya, Khiyam, Qantara further northwest; shoots down 2 Hizballah drones heading for Israel. At least 20 Lebanese civilians, 2 Lebanese soldiers, 5 IDF soldiers are killed, and 25 IDF soldiers are wounded. Hizballah fires 220–250 rockets into n. Israel, the most in 1 day to date, mostly targeting Haifa (killing 1 Israeli civilian) but also hitting Kiryat Shmona, Yaara. (IFM 8/13; NYT, WP, WT 8/14; NYT 8/15) 14 AUGUST In Gaza, the IDF conducts air strikes destroying the Jabaliya r.c. home of an Islamic Jihad mbr. accused of firing rockets into Israel (residents are warned in advance to evacuate, but 14 bystanders are injured, 11 nearby houses damaged), the Bayt Hanun home of a PRC mbr. thought to be holding a weapons cache (residents are warned in advance to evacuate, but 1 bystander is injured); shells a group of Palestinian civilians nr. Bayt Hanun attempting to cart away a disused rocket launcher to sell as scrap, killing 3 Palestinian civilians, wounding 3, conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Shuka., Palestinians fire 4 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the IDF patrols in, fires on residential areas of Araba and Falam, both nr. Jenin, deliberately damaging 35 water tanks atop homes in Falam; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya, nr. Jenin, in and around Hebron, Nablus; begins bulldozing 250 d. of agricultural land nr. Qalqilya for construction of the separation wall (see 8/10). Jewish settlers fr. Mitzvah Lakhish, Negohot settlements nr. Hebron (escorted by the IDF) bulldoze at least 100 d. of neighboring Palestinian land. Unidentified Palestinian gunmen (suspected PRC mbrs.) kidnap 2 Fox News journalists (1 American reporter, 1 cameraman fr. New Zealand) in Gaza City; no group takes responsibility or issues demands; Hamas condemns the action. (WP, WT 8/15; NYT, WP 8/16; PCHR 8/17; Roadmap Risk Assessment [Jerusalem] 8/19) Overnight, the IDF continues air strikes on s. Beirut and in the Biqa’ Valley, killing at least 7 Lebanese, while Hizballah fires rockets into n. Israel. Minutes before the
8:00 A.M. local (1:00 A.M. ET) truce deadline, violence quiets. During the day, 10,000s of Lebanese displaced by the fighting begin returning to their homes to assess damage, although IDF warnings on vehicular movement in s. Lebanon remain in place; 1,000s of Lebanese begin returning fr. Syria. In a televised address, Nasrallah promises Lebanese that Hizballah will provide funds to rebuild; on the ground Hizballah mbrs. in areas of s. Lebanon and s. Beirut take charge of clean-up and rescue efforts, with the help of Lebanese civil defense teams and army units. During the day, Hizballah holds its fire, whereas the IDF fires on groups of Hizballah mbrs. in 5 incidents, killing at least 5 Hizballah mbrs. it claims posed an immediate threat (permissible defensive action under UN Res. 1701); flies drones around s. Lebanon, monitoring the situation. At least 5 Lebanese civilians are killed by accidentally detonating unexploded IDF ordnance. (WP 8/14; NYT, WP, WT 8/15)

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Overnight, the IDF sends troops into 'Askar r.c. in search of a wanted Palestinian, demolishing his family home and 3 nearby homes of relatives, wounding his sister, arresting 4 relatives, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 9; a Palestinian woman dies of a heart attack during the raid; the wanted man is not found. Also in the West Bank, the IDF patrols in Zababda nr. Jenin, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin. In Gaza, IDF closes the Qarni crossing; exchanges fire with Islamic Jihad mbrs. nr. Khan Yunis, then moves troops into Abasan to search for the gunmen, patrolling and firing on residential areas, withdrawing late in the evening, leaving 1 Islamic Jihad mbr. dead. Late in the evening, the IDF makes an air strike destroying the Khan Yunis home of an AMB mbr. (residents are warned in advance to leave but are given too little time; an elderly Palestinian and his son are killed, 3 Palestinians are injured, 5 nearby houses are damaged). PA security forces search for 2 Fox News journalists kidnapped in Gaza on 8/14; Haniyeh also appeals for their release. A Palestinian dies of injuries received during an 7/6 IDF attempted assassination in Jenin r.c. (NYT, WP, WT 8/16; PCHR 8/17; OCHA 8/25)

The Israel-Lebanon front remains relatively quiet, with UNIFIL confirming no breaches of the cease-fire, though the IDF fatally shoots 3 Hizballah mbrs. in s. Lebanon in incidents deemed defensive. UNIFIL reports no significant Israeli withdrawals fr. Lebanon, though the IDF does pull several 100 reservists and tanks into Israel. Tens of thousands of Lebanese civilians continue to return to their homes in s. Lebanon, though the IDF drops leaflets warning them to stay away. Hizballah begins disbursing financial aid to displaced families to aid them in their return (reportedly allocating $150 m. to the task); begins recording and assessing damage to personal property and infrastructure, with the aim of executing a long-term reconstruction effort. Now free to move, relief workers in s. Lebanon begin uncovering 10s of bodies buried in the rubble of destroyed buildings. (NYT, WT 8/15; NYT, WP, WT 8/16)
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<td>OCHA</td>
<td>OCHA ([United Nations] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)</td>
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<td>OSC</td>
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The southern Beirut suburbs, 14 August 2006. (Fadi Ghalioum/Reuters)